Wednesday, December 14, 1960
Agrahayana 23, 1882(Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

Second Series

Volume XLIX, 1960/1882 (*Saka*)

[*December 12 to 23, 1960/Agrahayana 21 to Pausa 2, 1882* (Saka)]

TWELFTH SESSION, 1960/1882 (*Saka*)

(*Vol. XLIX contains Nos. 21 to 30*)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 14, 1960/Agrahayana 23, 1882 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

रुड़की-बद्रीनाथ सड़क

*८९२. **श्री भक्त दर्शन** : क्या **परिवहन तथा संचार** मंत्री २१ अप्रैल, १९६० के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १६१६ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रुड़की हरिद्वार-जोशीमठ-बद्रीनाथ सड़क के निर्माण तथा विकास में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ;

(ख) सड़क के प्रत्येक भाग के लिये मंजूर की गई राशि में से अबतक कितनी-कितनी राशि का भुगतान किया गया है ;

(ग) कीर्तिनगर और रुद्रप्रयाग के बीच की सड़क के विकास के लिये ९.८५ लाख रुपये के स्वीकृत अनुमानित व्यय के सम्बन्ध में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ; और

(घ) जोशीमठ से बद्रीनाथ तक मोटर की सड़क बनाने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) और (ख). इस सम्बन्ध में विवरण सभा-पटल पर प्रस्तुत है। [देखिये परिशिष्ट ३, अनुबन्ध संख्या ४०]

(ग) इस के लिये ठेका दिया गया है

और सड़क चौड़ी करने का काम हाल ही में शुरू हुआ है ।

(घ) यह सूचना सार्वजनिक हित में देना ठीक नहीं है ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : इस विवरण में बताया गया है कि जो ३८.६४ लाख रुपये भारत सरकार ने स्वीकार किये थे, उनमें से अभी तक ३०.६८५ लाख रुपये का ही उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार उपयोग कर सकी है । क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार इस प्रगति से सन्तुष्ट है और यदि नहीं तो क्या इस बारे में कुछ और तेजी से कदम उठाने का विचार किया जा रहा है ।

श्री राज बहादुर : ये कार्य स्वभावतः ही ऐसा है कि इसमें विलम्ब होता है क्यों कि इसके तखमीने बनाने में, तखमीनों की मंजूरी में, उनकी जांच में काफी समय लगता है । इसके अतिरिक्त ठेकेदारों की छांट में भी काफी समय लगता है । फिर बहुत से टुकड़े पहाड़ी हैं और इस प्रकार के हैं कि वहां भी कुछ समय लगता है । मगर मैं यह नहीं कह सकता कि हम सन्तुष्ट हैं उस प्रगति से । हमारी यही कोशिश है कि प्रगति की गति को कुछ और बढ़ाया जाये ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : जोशीमठ से बद्रीनाथ की सड़क के बारे में कहा गया है कि इसके बारे में सूचना देना सार्वजनिक हित में ठीक नहीं होगा । पर कम से कम यह बतालाने की तो कृपा की जाये कि क्या सड़क बनाने के बारे में कोई निणय किया गया है या नहीं किया गया है, अर्थात् यह सड़क बनेगी भी या नहीं बनेगी ?

श्री राज बहादुर : अगर यही बता दिया जाये तो फिर मेरे ख्याल से बताने में कुछ बाकी नहीं रह जायेगा ।

Shri Bangshi Thakur: May I know whether any road construction is going on in Kedarnath also?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a different thing.

Shri Goray: In view of the strategic importance of this particular road, will steps be taken early to see to it that it is expedited and completed?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Hon. Members are aware that border roads are the responsibility of the Border roads Development Board. I think it is in their jurisdiction to say something about them.

Shri Goray: Who is the Minister in charge of that? We must have the answer from somebody.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): I would like to explain the position. The Prime Minister is Chairman of the Border Roads Development Board and the Defence Minister is Vice-Chairman. The Secretary of the Ministry of Transport is a member. The only thing is that questions are asked of us because the budget amount for these roads is put under the Transport Ministry. But if the hon. Member wants further information, it would be much better for him to table a separate question to the Boarder Roads Development Board, when either the Prime Minister or the Defence Minister will give a proper reply.

Shri Goray: When this question has been tabled, does it not become the duty of some Minister who is responsible for it to be present here?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whatever information he wants, he should table the question to the proper Minister.

Shri Goray: The Minister concerned should be present here when the question is admitted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Freight Rates

***893. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 173 on the 5th August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal for taking statutory powers to regulate freight rates in overseas trade on the lines of the American law on the subject; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The question of taking statutory powers to regulate freight rates in overseas trade is still under examination in consultation with the Shipping interests concerned.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: In reply to the previous question, the hon. Minister said that this proposal would give protection to our export trade. In view of this factor, may I know what steps are being taken to expedite this matter?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This question was put to the Shipping Consultative Committee which consists of the representatives of Indian shipping companies as also foreign shipping companies. They have given their views. While the foreign shipping companies are, generally speaking, against it, the Indian shipping companies have said that it might be required. But at this moment, as I said, the proposal is under examination, and we would like to watch the situation.

Shri Tangamani: I would like to know whether Government propose to drop it altogether because of the differing views expressed.

Shri Raj Bahadur: No, there is no question of dropping it. As I said, the whole matter is under examination. The measure is needed or necessitated by our anxiety to remove such inhibitory factors as operate against the promotion of our exports. It is in that context that this question is being examined.

11.07 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

डाक सेवायें

*८६४. **श्री पद्म देव** : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को विदित है कि बहुत से पहाड़ी स्थानों पर डाक कई महीनों के बाद बांटी जाती है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को यह भी विदित है कि वहां डाकघर न होने के कारण पेन्शन पाने वालों को अपनी पेन्शन लेने के लिये दूर-दूर के स्थानों में जाना पड़ता है और वहां भी उन्हें बहुत कठिनाई होती है क्योंकि वहां कई बार उनको गवाह नहीं मिलते ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस विषय में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने वाली है?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) उन गावों को छोड़ कर जो डाक वाले गांव नहीं हैं तथा सेंट्रल परिमण्डल के कुछ गांवों को छोड़कर भारत के किसी भी गांव में डाक बांटने में सामान्यतः एक महीने से अधिक की देरी नहीं होती ।

(ख) कुछ ऐसे मामले हैं जहां पेन्शन पाने वालों को अपनी पेंशन लेने के लिये डाकघर तक पहुंचने में कुछ दूरी तक चलना पड़ता है । डाक विभाग के पेंशन पाने वालों को पहचान कराने में कोई कठिनाई नहीं होती, किन्तु सैनिक व्यक्तियों की पहचान के लिये कुछ कठिनाई हो सकती है ।

(ग) यह मामला विचाराधीन है ।

Some Hon. Members: The English version of the answer may also be given.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) Except in the case of 'No Dak Villages' and some villages in Central Circle, no village in India is normally served at intervals of more than a month.

(b) There are a few cases where pensioners have to travel some distance to reach a post office and get their pension. For postal pensioners no difficulty is experienced for identification but for the military personnel some difficulty may arise for identification.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

श्री पद्म देव : माननीय मंत्री जी को यह भलीभांति मालूम है कि खास तौर से जो बार्डर में पुलिस है, उनके लिये जो शैड्यूल्ड टाइम है, उससे भी कई कई दिन बाद डाक उनको पहुंचती है । उन लोगों के लिये खास तौर पर क्या सरकार किसी तरह का प्रबन्ध करने का विचार रखती है ?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: That is due to the fact most of these places get snow-bound at times in the hilly tracts and it is not possible for our delivery-men to reach those places because of the difficulties of terrain. Therefore, sometimes it happens that the post is not delivered at the time specified.

श्री पद्म देव : माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि एक महीने के बाद कहीं भी डाक नहीं पहुंचती है । लेकिन वास्तविकता यह है कि एक एक पोस्टमैन एक डाकखाने में रखा जाता है जिसके सुपुर्द कम से कम सौ मुरब्बा मील का क्षेत्र होता है पूरा करने के लिये और लोगों को कई दफा दो दो और तीन तीन महीने बाद डाक पहुंचती है । अगर माननीय मंत्री जी को इसकी साक्षियां चाहियें, तो मैं उनको देने के लिये तैयार हूं ।

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I am afraid the hon. Member's experience may be different. From what I have heard from the departmental men, the post does reach in time whenever they could traverse the ground. Besides, as I said, there are hilly tracts and the distances are much longer than people think they are. As the crow flies, it might be one or two miles, but very

often they have to traverse as much as 12 miles to reach such destinations. Therefore, it is very difficult to keep the time, especially in snow-bound times.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether in those areas where there is a great concentration of ex-servicemen branch post-offices will be up-graded to sub-offices so that they may be nearer the centres of collection?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: We are bound by rules on this matter. When the population of a village is 2000 and the loss incurred is only Rs. 1000, then post offices are opened in such regions. But extra departmental offices are also opened under certain conditions. But when the loss goes over that amount, unless somebody in the village or other interested in the village guarantee this sum, we do not open post offices.

लाला अचित राम : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात को महसूस करते हैं कि आजादी के बारह वर्ष बाद भी डाक इतनी देर में पहुंचती है कि एक महीना तक लग जाता है ? क्या वे इस पीरियड को कुछ कम नहीं कर सकते ?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: The hon. Member says: 'After 12 years of independence. If he knows the financial condition of the State and the developmental projects we are undertaking, I am sure, the hon. Member will not ask that question. Replying to the hon. Member who asked whether post offices cannot be opened, I may say we are trying to open post offices as quickly as possible. And, the hon. Members will realise that we fulfiled the First Plan target of 55,000 post offices in time. Now, up to 2 000 have got to be opened; that is, out of about 75,000 we are only 2,000 short which I hope will be opened before the next Plan period.

लाला अचित राम : मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं दिया गया, मंत्री महोदय ने और बातें कही हैं । आज कल जो एक महीने का समय लगता है क्या आप उसको पंद्रह दिन करेंगे ? Can we not reduce the period?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I have already said that. But, evidently, the hon. Member does not understand my language and I do not understand his language. I have already said that it cannot be shortened.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is the policy of Government to open a branch post office in habitations where there is 2,000 population? Are there any rules about that?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I have already said so.

Commodity Committee for Spices

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*896. { **Shri Achar:** / **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 550 on the 19th August, 1960 and state the progress made with regard to the setting up of a Commodity Committee for the development of spices?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): The question of setting up of a Commodity Committee for the development of spices is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

Shri Achar: It has been pending for a fairly long time. May I know when the decision will be taken?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am conscious that we have not been able to expedite the decision. But there are arguments and counter arguments. In the meantime, the Spices Export Committee has come into being. So, we are considering the pros and cons of it.

Shri Achar: May I know whether the Export Promotion Committee is only for the purpose of improving exports? The question of production is the main thing. And, from that

point of view, may I know whether the matter would be expedited?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is the point of view the Ministry of Agriculture is pressing.

Shri Warior: To a former question the answer was given that there was some difference of opinion between Agriculture Ministry and the Planning Commission. May I know whether that difference has been resolved now? It is time for taking a final decision in this matter.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not yet fully.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that the ICAR has recommended the formation of such a committee and that the hon. Minister has also accepted on the floor of the House on a previous occasion that cardamom is one of the rich foreign exchange earners, I would like to know why there is so much delay. Let us know whether they are going to set up such a committee or board.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: One view that is expressed is that no sooner have we such committees the expenditure increases and so on. We are trying to meet that argument.

Protection from Termites

*897. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any data has been maintained relating to the approximate extent of damage in terms of money caused annually by termites in India to wood-work, furniture, stored products, books and records in Government buildings and to crops in India;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the nature of protective measures taken in this regard?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Different methods are used for different articles. Those adopted for Government stores, buildings and properties, are spraying of D.D.T., exposure to sun, use of termite-proof chemicals and paints. Organic and inorganic insecticides are used in the case of crops.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: The control of termites, particularly as regards grain, has been experimented with radio isotopes. May I know whether we have had any such experiments with radio isotopes in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The radio isotope is a recent thing, which we are utilising for all kinds of research. I do not know whether we have gone to the problem of termite so far.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Have we evolved any anti-termite thing especially for food such as obtains in the U.S.A. because the damage is very great through termites?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: With regard to storages, all our improved storages are termite-proof and no damage is reported.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: I am speaking of damages to crops alone.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are going to investigate so far as damage to crops is concerned.

Soil Conservation

*899. **Shri Achar:**
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of soil conservation experts from the U.S.A. have visited India recently;

(b) if so, the States visited by them;

(c) whether any report has been submitted by them; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Mr. Don A. Williams, Administrator, Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, came to India as a Consultant on Soil and Water Conservation.

(b) He visited the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Madras.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The report is under consideration of Government.

Shri Achar: May I know whether any flood control expert was also associated with this committee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir; this has no connection with flood control.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The hon. Minister just now said that the team visited U.P. also. May I know whether the team surveyed the area of Chambal and Jamuna and whether they have submitted any recommendations with regard to soil conservation in the ravines of Chambal and Jamuna?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Actually, the team consisted of only one expert. Of course, he had a look at the ravines and their reclamation and so on. This matter has also been included.

Shri Achar: May I know the main recommendations of the team?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They are rather lengthy. I have got the report. I can place a summary of it on the Table of the Sabha if desired.

Mr. Speaker: He can place copies on the Table of the House. Are there no copies?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I can place a few copies.

Mr. Speaker: All right; let them be placed in the Library.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: Why is it that this expert team visited certain States? Is it because the problem of soil conservation is acute in those States only in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We tried to select typical areas. It is not possible for an expert of this type to visit every possible area so long as the type of soil conservation required for a particular types of land is taken into consideration.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether it is a fact that soil erosion is very heavy in the Indus water basin and whether any survey has been made of that area?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: One man could not survey. What the problems are and how they are to be tackled alone has been undertaken. We are aware of the revages done by these rivers.

Shri Amjad Ali: There have been constant complaints that due to jhum cultivation in the hill areas in Assam, Brahmaputra is being silted up? Is there any reason why this team was not instructed to visit Assam and ascertain whether soil conservation was necessary there?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are aware of the problems of Assam and as I said we could not go all the places. The problem of Assam is a very big one and I am sure it is receiving our attention.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Assam is one of the highest foreign exchange earners in respect of agricultural products like tea. It is the same question as Shri Amjad Ali's. Why was this team not instructed to visit Assam?

Mr. Speaker: Is there a proposal to send a team to other States also?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The present team has completed its work. One gentleman alone came here. Of course this is not the end of the thing. This is only a survey for advice on particular problems. We are continuously doing these things. So far as our experts are concerned, nobody need feel that any particular aspect was neglected.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether Government have

received any complaint about silting in Govind Sagar and if so whether there is a proposal to send any expert team there also?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would require notice.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस बात को जानते हुए कि हमें अधिक अन्न उपजाने के लिए अधिक भूमि की आवश्यकता है, क्या देश भर में इस प्रकार के सर्वे कराने के लिए भारतीय एक्सपर्ट्स की कोई टीम मुकर्रर की गई है और क्या तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना में इसके लिए कुछ धन रखा जायेगा ?

डा० पं० शा० देशमुख: हमारे पास भारतीय एक्सपर्टस काफी हैं और वह इन चीजों पर ध्यान रखते हैं और सर्वे भी करते हैं । इन एक्सपर्टस को तो कुछ खास बातें जानने के लिए बुलाया था और उसने देखने के बाद हमें अपनी रिपोर्ट दे दी है ।

श्री पद्म देव : क्या इस स्कीम में पर्वतीय इलाकों का निरीक्षण भी शामिल है क्योंकि देश और पर्वत में इरोजन अलग अलग किस्म का होता है ?

डा० पं० शा० देशमुख: जी हां, उन्होंने इस पर ध्यान दिया है ।

Shri Warior: May I know whether there is any proposal before the Government to extend the survey to other parts also which are not covered by this team, especially where the monsoon is the highest?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This may be taken care of to the extent possible in the Third Plan.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know whether this expert came here at the invitation of the Government of India or whether it is a part of the package programme?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This has nothing to do with the package programme. It was agreed to between the U.S. Government and ourselves.

Shri Achar: The hon. Minister was pleased to say that the team visited Mysore State. May I know whether it visited the Deccan portion or it visited the West Coast also?

Mr. Speaker: These are details.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I cannot say that.

Landslides on Jammu-Srinagar Highway

*902. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state what steps are being taken to check landslides on the Highway linking Jammu with Srinagar?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The State Government have been asked to build retaining walls, breast walls and series of check walls. They have also been asked to stabilize the hill face by planting shrubs on the slopes.

Shri Raghunath Singh: As the Jammu and Kashmir State is a very poor State, what is the contribution going to be made by the Central Government to maintain this highway?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This is a national highway and the entire cost of the maintenance is on the Central Government. Perhaps it may be shared by the border road development fund to some extent.

Earth Tremors

*903. **Shri Rami Reddy:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were frequent earth tremors in Andhra Pradesh during the last six months;

(b) if so, the places as also the timings where and when they occurred;

(c) the effects caused by the tremors; and

(d) whether any damage has occurred as a result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Cultivation of Paddy

*904. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee to organise the use of certain new varieties of paddy which can withstand floods and stagnant water; and

(b) if so, where these new varieties of paddy have been experimented upon?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The Constitution of the Committee has been finalised only recently and it will shortly start work. In the meantime certain successful trials of this variety of paddy have been made in the reservoirs of the D.V.C. project.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any other areas have been chosen to introduce this type of paddy?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We intend to use it wherever it is possible to experiment with it.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : पैडी की नई किस्में कहां से मंगाई जा रही हैं और क्या उनके उपयोग के लिए किसी विशेष तरकीब की आवश्यकता होती है ?

डा० पं० शा० देशमुख : ये सब वैराटीज हिन्दुस्तान में ही पायी जाती हैं । इनमें क्या संशोधन करके उनको अच्छा बनाया जा सके इसकी तरकीब सोची जा रही है ।

Shri Tyagi: What is exactly the use of a committee in this matter of growing paddy? Will the Committee grow paddy? What are the functions of this Committee? I am surprised.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member can straightway ask if the Ministers grow paddy.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, there are many aspects of growing paddy and it is not merely seeing paddy grown somewhere. This is a special variety. This is meant to be grown in lands where the water stagnates and remains for a long time. We want to introduce these varieties and find out the proper varieties and propagate their use. We also intend to grow another crop along with paddy we shall grow some fish crop also.

Shri Tyagi: What is the committee required to do? What are the terms of reference of that committee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice if the details are to be given. This is a committee of experts, first and foremost. They will find out what particular varieties are suitable for what type of lands, whether any new varieties can be evolved, what is the yield and how it could be increased, what are the fertilisers required, and so on.

Shri Tyagi: May I take it that it is a research committee of some scholars who will make some research into it? Or is it that research has already been done and this paddy is only to be propagated?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is investigation leading to research. Some of these people are scientists themselves and they will also do research, but we also want to find out the problems on which researches would be necessary. Then they will undertake the research.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack carried on this research and if so, what is the result of this research?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have now come to the conclusion that in spite of the fact that we have got a very fine institute at Cuttack, there are many aspects of growing paddy which require detailed consideration and more

specific research. That is the reason why we have appointed more than one committee to look into the different aspects of paddy cultivation.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Once the hon. Minister gave a reply here that he saw some paddy on which the boys were dancing in China. What about experimenting with that sort of paddy so that our boys may also dance here on paddy?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is no paddy on which anybody can dance. The Chinese claim that they can grow the crops so thick that human beings can stand on them; it has nothing to do with the varieties of paddy.

Mr. Speaker: Our experience is that wherever the stack is thick, the grain is small; the stack eats away the nutrition. I do not know whether anybody will be satisfied with stacks so that the children may dance on them, though they may be hungry.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I explain, Sir? Dancing is not done because of the strength of the stack but because of the intensity of the growth of the plants.

Mr. Speaker: Even then what I have said is there. Very well. The age of exaggeration is not over.

Indian Airlines Corporation

*907. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to transfer seven stations of the Indian Airlines Corporation in Assam to private agencies; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this step?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) and (b). The Indian Airlines Corporation are reviewing the feasibility of entrusting the functioning of some offices to Agents at certain stations including a few in Assam where direct functioning is not economical or administratively convenient.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Do the Government think that there are possibilities of improvement in transferring these stations to private people?

Shri Mohiuddin: The Indian Airlines Corporation is not considering the question of improvement. This is only a proposal for decreasing its own expenditure so that the total expenditure incurred by the I.A.C. is economised.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know how this decrease in expenditure is going to be effected—whether by cutting down the staff or by any other means?

Shri Mohiuddin: It is proposed to give a contract for the services to be rendered by private agencies at certain places where the work is not heavy and is very light. The question of employment does not come in here, and as far as possible, the present employees will be absorbed in the new agencies.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Is it not a fact that some of the private agencies have made food dropping and thus have supplied food in the NEFA area up to something like 1,490 tons and earned a lot of foreign exchange also, and in view of this fact, may I know whether they will be given some of the unsheduled routes?

Shri Mohiuddin: The main question is about the transfer of stations and the serving at the air-ports as far as the carrying of passengers from the air-port to the city or the town is concerned. The question is not concerned with the air-droppings.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: May I know whether such a transfer is going to take place in Tripura also?

Shri Mohiuddin: I am not yet aware of it. The question is under consideration.

Shri Basumatari: May I know which are the stations that are going to be transferred to the private agencies?

Shri Mohiuddin: I have just stated that this is under consideration.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार ने जब यह एयरलाइन्स कारपोरेशन का काम इस इलाके में शुरू किया था तो क्या इस बात की जांच नहीं की थी कि यहां पर यह अनएकोनामिक होगा और यदि जांच की थी तो क्या कारण है कि अब इनको बन्द कर रहे हैं ?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): The fact is, as has been mentioed by my hon. colleague, we are thinking of opening these extra departmental offices where we think it is not possible to open offices because they will increase the expenditure. Therefore, I do not know how the question of the hon. Member arises, because, it has been explained fully that these offices are not yet opened and the question is under consideration.

Shri Supakar: May I know if the Government will consider the running of these services at these stations more economically by the private agencies than by the Government?

Mr. Speaker: It is a major matter of policy.

Shri Mohiuddin: At some station aircraft arrives only once a day, or, sometimes, only three times a week. To keep a person there, at these stations, employed for the whole of the month for a service which exists only for about four to six days in a month is uneconomic.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that in addition to the regular IAC stations in Assam, there are already privately controlled and privately run parallel stations maintained by these unscheduled operators at Kolapani, Joy Hing, Misa, Byraugjuli, Ambari, Sonapur, Sungaon and Panga?

Shri Mohiuddin: There are the stations where the private operators are operating. But the question is not concerned with the operators.

Shri P. C. Borooah: The hon. Deputy Minister said that they are considering the question of transferring some of the stations in Assam from the IAC to the private agencies. May I know which are the stations?

Shri Mohiuddin: As, I have stated, this question is being considered by the IAC and the question has not yet been decided, namely, which stations are to be transferred.

Shri Basumatari: May I know which are the private agencies to which the Government is contemplating to transfer these seven stations?

Shri Mohiuddin: That question also has not yet been decided. It will have to be considered.

Posting of Newspapers Abroad

908. Raja Mahendra Pratap: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new rules about posting newspapers to foreign countries;

(b) whether permission of the Reserve Bank of India is required to mail the newspapers; and

(c) whether some foreign exchange is involved in sending the newspapers to foreign countries?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) No new rules have been introduced.

(b) For mailing the newspapers as gift no permission from the Reserve Bank of India is required. If a newspaper, however, is sent to a foreign country, on valuable consideration, it is obligatory to fill in the prescribed P.P. Form which has to be countersigned by the Reserve Bank of India or any other Bank authorised to deal in foreign exchange.

(c) That would depend on whether any sale proceed or subscription is received or not from a foreign country for the newspaper sent.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I say by my experience that my papers—*World Federation, Sansar Sangh* and *Ithahade Duniya*—were not allowed to go to

foreign countries for some time. They told me that it was necessary to get the permission as foreign exchange was involved. When I send papers or when anybody else sends papers abroad, no exchange is involved; if someone buys abroad, then, of course, foreign exchange is involved. So, may I know why such a thing happened in my case?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: If the newspaper is sent as a gift, I admit there is no foreign exchange involved, but, if the newspaper which he is sending gets him back money as value for the newspaper received, then, naturally foreign exchange is involved. This is the distinction. (*Interruptions*). It is very easy to say that that foreign exchange is earned, but in order to find out how much foreign exchange is earned, the Reserve Bank of India have to have an account.

Shri Raghunath Singh: What objection do the Government have, if India is earning some foreign exchange by exporting the newspapers?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I know the hon. Member is influenced by foreign exchange quite a good deal, but, at the same time, he ought to realise the difficulties of accounting, and the Government want to know how much foreign exchange has been earned by this, and therefore they ought to have an account of it, and they could have it only through the Reserve Bank of India.

Shri Sampath: Is it not a fact that in the Reserve Bank of India and in the post offices, the P.P. Forms are sold for a price?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: They are not sold for any price. They are called P.P. Forms and they can be obtained from the Reserve Bank of India.

Shri Sampath: Is it free?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: Yes.

Shri Sampath: No.

Mr. Speaker: Hereafter they will be supplied free.

Shri Achar: Is it not a fact that if we want the P.P. Forms in large numbers, we have to pay for them?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: If you are going to sell it to others, you have got to pay for it first, before you make a profit!

Shri Achar: My question is, for every newspaper they want these forms to be filled. They are not issued free but they are charged for. Is that not a fact?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: If they want too many forms, naturally a suspicion arises.

Rise in Price of Rice in Kerala

\+

*909. **Shri Maniyangadan:**
Shri Warior:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that price of rice has increased in Kerala recently;

(b) what are the reasons for such increase; and

(c) whether any measures have been taken to check the rise in prices of paddy and rice?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). The prices of rice had arisen in November 1960 on account of reduced arrivals from Madras and Andhra Pradesh resulting mainly from dislocation in the means of transport caused by heavy rains and floods. The prices have since declined.

(c) Urgent steps were taken to repair the breaches in the rail communications and to step up rail movement of rice to Kerala. The quantum of issue of rice through fair price shops was also increased.

Shri Maniyangadan: May I know what quantity of rice was asked for by the State and what quantity was supplied by the Centre to meet the crisis and also, to meet the subsidy

that the State Government had to pay on account of the rise in prices, whether any help was rendered by the Central Government?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The quota fixed for Kerala for the calendar year 1960 was first 1,30,000 tons. As per increase on three occasions, finally, we have agreed for a quantity of two lakh tons for the calendar year. Then, subsequently, because of breaches on the railway tracks, there has been difficulties in the railway movement in respect of rice from Andhra Pradesh and Madras, and they have also increased the rations to three measures for a time, and so, they needed about six thousand tons more. So, we have now agreed to supply them 2,06,000 tons.

With regard to the subsidy, the State Government, on its own initiative, has reduced the price. We supply at the rate of Rs. 16, but they are now selling, I think, at the rate of Rs. 15. That was not done at our instance. Even when we gave it at the rate of Rs. 16 there—it is mostly the Burma rice that is supplied to Kerala—we incur a loss of Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per maund of rice, and that will come about or more than Rs. 2 crores by way of subsidy, and so it will not be possible for the Central Government to bear any further loss on account of the subsidy that the State Government incurs.

Shri Warior: May I know whether paddy and rice available in Kerala were transported to Madras State because there was deficiency in the Madras State owing to floods and that is the reason for the rise in the price of rice in Kerala?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is so. We should not grudge that because the main sources of supply of rice for Kerala are Madras and Andhra. Because of the floods in Madras region, some rice was transported from Malabar region to Madras. Because of that also rice prices went up in Malabar.

Shri Warior: May I know whether thise rice taken from Malabar was at Governmental level or private level and whether the rice was sold at Madras at a higher price?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Madras, Andhra, Kerala and Mysore are in one zone, so that there is absolutely no movement restriction.

Shri Maniyangadan: May I know whether the price of rice now prevailing in Kerala is more or less compared to the price at this time during the last two years?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Because of the floods and other things I mentioned, this year the price of common variety—the wholesale price—went up to Rs. 24-4-0, but it has now come down to the level of Rs. 21 or Rs. 22. Last year also at this time, the price prevailing was about Rs. 21 to Rs. 22. It has reached that level now.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know whether it is also a fact that as soon as foodgrains come into the merchants' godowns, the prices go high? If so, can Government put some restriction on it and order merchants not to receive more than 5 per cent. profit?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is a matter of detailed control on distribution. As the House knows, with regard to hoarding by merchants, the Reserve Bank has got certain restrictions on the advances to be made by banks. So, indirectly there are checks.

Increase in Railway Fare

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*910. { **Shri Muhammed Elias:**
Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway fare in Howrah Amta and Howrah Sheakhala Light Railways is being increased from 1st December, 1960;

(b) if so, the reason for the same; and

(c) the amount to be increased?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). There has been no general increase in fares on these railways. However some fares have increased while others have decreased as a result of the adoption of the metric system with effect from 1-12-1960. This has involved the distance being reckoned in kilometres instead of in miles and the rounding off of fares in units of 5 nP instead of in annas as before. The maximum increase is 13 nP in case of upper class and 8 nP in the case of lower class.

Mr. Speaker: Even for small increases in postal rates, the matter comes up here. Why should not hereafter a convention be established that whenever railway rates are increased, it must come to this House?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): There is no increase in the rates; it is just rounding off and in rounding off, somewhere we lose and somewhere we gain. As has been stated, there was not rise.

Shri Sampath: Can the hon. Minister show one instance where the rounding off has resulted in less fare?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, certainly.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. Minister does not take away what remains out of the rounding off. It goes only to the State.

Shri Muhammed Elias: This railway belongs to a private company, Messrs. Martin Burn & Company. They increased the fares last October when they introduced the metric system. They increased the fare also again in December. The maximum increase is not 13 nP, but is far more. The fare is far more than the broad-gauge fare. This is a metre-gauge railway. It is stated in their circular that they have increased the fare according to the Railway Board's instructions. Will Government persuade the company not to increase the fare?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The company have to see that they run the line economically. If they are running at a loss, any prudent management will see they do not run at a loss.

Shri Muhammed Elias: This company is not running at a loss. They have declared 8 per cent. dividend to the shareholders this year. They are using old engines and carriages, exploiting the passengers and depriving them of the other amenities given to broad-gauge passengers. We have been demanding the nationalisation of this railway line. When every railway in India has been nationalised, why not this railway also?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The policy is not to nationalise narrow gauge at present.

Shri Hem Barua: There is a persistent demand for the nationalisation of the light railway run by private companies and for taking over by the Indian Railways. Instead of being integrated with the Indian railway system, they are running a private show, charging excessive fares from the public.

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of policy which cannot be disposed of in a question. Hon. Members should wait till the budget session. Or, if they are impatient and if they want to have this matter thrashed out even earlier, they can ask for a discussion. This is a matter of general policy; therefore hon. Members will wait for the budget session.

Shri Goray: Is it not a fact that some light railways have been taken over by Government? It is not a policy that no light railway should be taken over.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will kindly understand that it is a mattar of policy; the question of nationalisation in general and why a particular railway has not been taken over, etc. do not come up here. Those matters cannot be discussed in a question. I allowed this question on the increase of fare. The hon. Member said that the increase was at the instance of the Railway Board. I thought the rail-

way belonged to the State and so, I said, the hon. Minister does not pocket it, but it goes to the State as a whole. If it is a private concern that takes it, of course, hon. Members on behalf of those travellers are entitled to say that this is exorbitant. This matter will be looked into by the hon. Minister.

Shri Hem Barua: Does the Minister have any control over the light railways? If they have any control, why is it that they cannot control the increase in fare and all that?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must follow what is happening in the House. The hon. Member himself said that these are done on the orders of the Railway Board and the hon. Minister kept quite. So, it is not as if Railway Board has no control. The Railway Board found, as the hon. Minister has replied, that they must increase the fare in case it is uneconomic. The hon. Member said they are declaring 8 per cent. dividend. I cannot allow a discussion on this matter and settlement of this dispute here.

Shri Hem Barua: You were pleased to say that they are uneconomic. But who has established this aspect of the matter? Was there any inquiry conducted?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member always thinks it a privilege to develop every small matter into a huge discussion. If he wants, let us have a separate discussion. What is the meaning of occupying the entire Question Hour over this? If he wants that this railway should be taken over, by all means, let him ask for it; let him wait till the budget session. If the fare has been increased, let us have a discussion. Hon. Members know that every day I am telling them what the rules contain. Still, they want to utilise the Question Hour for this purpose. I am really surprised.

Shri Muhammed Elias: May I request you to allow a two-hour discussion on this?

Mr. Speaker: I am prepared to allow 20 hours, but it is not on oral applications.

Hon. Members may have a half-hour discussion some day. Let the Government also explain as to why it has been increased.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: May I make a submission? In fairness to that railway company, I would like to submit that there has been substantial decrease in many cases. And if hon. Members would like to know, I can read it out.

Mr. Speaker: What is the overall balance?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Neither profit nor loss, just rounding them off.

Mr. Speaker: Let the hon. Minister say it in the half an hour discussion. What I am saying is that I fully appreciate the Government is doing a lot for this country since 1950. Of course, some hon. Members might not have been young during the previous decade. The youngsters in the previous decade got through the fray because they were anxious that an economic content should be given to the freedom for which they have been responsible. It is not as if those people merely went to jail and suffered, never expecting to come back. Therefore, every person who suffered on a previous occasion is anxious that an economic content should be given to the freedom and he is proud that the Government is doing something. But if there is really some difficulty somewhere, I am prepared to allow a discussion on it from time to time, and I am allowing it already. The hon. Minister said there is no loss or gain to the company in this case. It is in the interest of the Government itself to explain the position in the House. I am afraid, here and there, there is want of some publicity; otherwise, what is being done is perfectly all right. Now, the half an hour discussion will stand.

Shri Mohammed Elias: Half an hour will not be sufficient. I have got much material at my disposal.

Mr. Speaker: Let us see.

Shri Hem Barua: They are exploited by this company.

रिद्वार के निकट रेल दुर्घटना

***६११. श्री भक्त दर्शन** : क्या रेलवे मंत्री २ अगस्त, १९६० के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ५३ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हरिद्वार में २० मई, १९६० को हुई रेल दुर्घटना की जांच की रिपोर्ट इस बीच तैयार हो गई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या रिपोर्ट की एक प्रति और उस पर किये गये निर्णयों का एक विवरण टेबल पर रखा जायेगा ; और

(ग) घायल यात्रियों को अब तक कितना प्रतिकर दिया गया है अथवा देने की मंजूरी दी गई है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

The report of the joint inquiry into the Railway accident which occurred at Hardwar on 20th May, 1960, has been finalised by the Railway Administration. The accident was due to failure of Railway staff. Suitable departmental action is being taken against the staff at fault.

It is not proposed to place a copy of the Departmental Enquiry Report on the Table of the Sabha.

No claim for compensation has so far been received from the victims of the accident.

Shri Bhakt Darshan: In the statement, it has been said that the accident was due to the failure of the railway staff and that suitable departmental action is being taken. Who are those officials and what action has actually been taken?

Shri S. V Ramaswamy: The cabin signal man set the point wrongly and the engine driver drove at an excessive speed. The cabin single man has been reduced to a pointsman and the engine driver's increment has been withheld for two years.

Shri Bhakt Darshan: May I know from the hon. Minister whether any arrangements have been made by the railways to see that such accidents do not take place in future?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We always take precautions to see that there are no accidents.

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि हरिद्वार के निकट परसों रात्रि में भी कोई रेल दुर्घटना हुई है. यदि हुई है, तो क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को उसका विवरण प्राप्त हो गया है ?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I do not know anything about that accident. A separate question may be put.

Shri Tangamani: From the statement I find that a copy of the report of the enquiry will not be laid on the Table of the House. May I know whether at least a summary of the major findings of this enquiry will be laid on the Table? Also, will compensation be paid now itself or are they waiting for a demand to come?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As there is no claim for compensation, that does not arise. As regards the report, it is a departmental enquiry. It is only when it is a statutory, enquiry as in the case of an enquiry by the Government Inspector of Railways, or in pursuance of the Commission of Enquiry Act, that a copy of the report is laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Bhakt Darshan: Even though no demand was received for compensation, were any arrangements made by the railway staff to attend to the injuries of those passengers and were they sent to their destinations at the cost of the Government?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Yes, Sir. 13 persons sustained minor injuries. They were attended to immediately and then discharged from the hospital.

Show Rooms at Bombay and Calcutta

*912. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 565 on the 19th August, 1960 and state the nature of steps taken or proposed to be taken for setting up marine equipment show rooms at Bombay and Calcutta for the benefit of prospective indigenous manufacturers?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The ship-building Ancillary Industries Committee has since submitted its detailed proposals for setting up a Show Room in Bombay in the first instance and these proposals are under consideration of Government.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether the financial implications of this scheme have been worked out?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Though I am not in a position to give the exact estimates of the financial implications, I may state that certain broad principles have been worked out, as recommended by the Committee, and they are, firstly, that we should not merely convert the show-rooms into museums; secondly, they should act as advisory bodies for intending entrepreneurs for the particular ancillary industries; thirdly, the technical department of the D.G., Shipping should assist and organise it; lastly, it should be financed by the Government.

Dieselisation of Moghalserai-Saharanpur Section

*913. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for dieselisation of the railway line from Moghalserai to Saharanpur on the Northern Railway is under the consideration of the Government of India;

(b) if so, details thereof together with the reasons for taking this step;

(c) when is the work, according to the scheme, likely to be begun; and

(d) the economic aspect of dieselisation *vis-a-vis* the existing steam system?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to dieselise the running of through goods trains on the Moghalserai-Shaharanpur Section, with the object of providing increased capacity for movement of goods traffic.

(c) Running of some through goods trains with Diesel locos is expected to commence in the latter half of 1961.

(d) The dieselisation of this section has been decided upon as an operational necessity becausce the capacity with steam traction would not be adequate for the requirements of increased traffic.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Will the electrification schemes round Calcutta have priority over the scheme of dieselisation of Moghalsarai-Saharanpur section?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Calcutta will have priority not in dieselisation but in electrification.

Famine in Andhra Pradesh

*914. **Shri Rami Reddy:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Minister for Agriculture toured the famine affected areas of Rayalaseema Districts in Andhra Pradesh in the months of September and October, 1960;

(b) whether he has submitted any report of his tour;

(c) whether he has suggested any relief measures—immediate and permanent—for relieving the distress of these areas; and

(d) if so, the main recommendations and suggestions made by him?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, it was suggested to the State Government that in addition to taking advantage of the assistance available from the Government of India on the cost of gratuitous relief for employing labour on construction and repair of roads:

(i) Minor Irrigation works should be given the first priority as they would create permanent assets and at the same time would provide gainful employment to labour in the country side; and

(ii) A plan should be prepared for the dry tracts to encourage diversification of agriculture and setting up of processing units for such agricultural commodities as could be produced in the areas.

For meeting the demand of additional minor irrigation schemes in the drought affected areas, an additional allotment of Rs. 1 crore has been made to the State Government.

Shri Rami Reddy: Since that area is stricken by famine frequently, may I know the permanent measures that have been suggested to the State Government? Also, what are the permanent measures that the Minister is going to take?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have asked an expert in our Ministry to go into the question and suggest some permanent relief measures in this area by diversification of agriculture and providing other gainful employment to the people there who are entirely dependent on rains. They should also be provided with some work in case the rains fail. In the meanwhile, we have asked the State Governments also to look into the question and submit us a report.

Shri Rami Reddy: May I know whether the representatives of Cuddapah district in Rayalaseema have urged that the second stage of the Tungabadra High-level canal and the Pulivendala canal as a permanent relief measure to relieve the distress in that area and, if so, the reactions of the hon. Minister?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: When I was in Rayachoti in Cuddapah, Shri Rami Reddy and the chairman of the Zila Parishad have represented to me about the execution of the upper level (second stage) of the Tungabadra canal and the Pulivendala canal to relieve the distress in that area. I have got that representation. It would be a part of the report which our experts will produce.

Shri Rami Reddy: What is the assistance given by the Centre for relieving distress?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have given an immediate relief of Rs. 1 crore, which can be utilised for minor irrigation works in that area. We have also arranged for the speedy movement of 50,000 tons of rice to the Andhra Government; in addition, 20,000 tons of wheat will also be given. To that extent, there is no food famine there. Afterwards, rains have come in plenty and people are happy and they do want any relief from us.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: May I know whether there is almost unanimity of opinion in that area that extension of rural electrification in that area should be given high priority in order to provide irrigation facilities?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, especially in his constituency. When I had been to Modanapalle the representatives of that area represented that because of the high level of the tract, there is no possibility of major irrigation works; the only possibility is for lift irrigation work and electrification would go a long way in that.

That would be also a part of the proposal which we have in view.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: May I know if anything is being granted in that direction?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have asked the State Government to submit us a scheme and our experts are now going into the problem.

Shri Rami Reddy: Is it not a fact that rural electrification is demanded in Cuddapah, Kurnool, Anantapur and Chittoor for irrigation purposes?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I said that rural electrification is necessary everywhere in Rayalaseema, but especially in the area Madanapalle, Vayalpad, Punganur and Kelchir, which are, Sir, parts of your constituency. It is an upland where there are no big rivers at all. So, the only alternative is to have lift irrigation from the wells and thereby irrigate the land.

12 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: Because I cannot ask any questions, hereafter whenever any question relating to my district comes, he will answer for my constituency also.

Roads in Assam

***915. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the countries which have formed a Regional Transport Organisation to build roads in Assam under the auspices of ECAFE; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this programme?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The Government of India have no information about the formation of a Regional Transport Organisation for building roads in Assam under the auspices of ECAFE.

C.H.S. Scheme for M.Ps.

***916. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is great rush on the C.H.S. dispensaries opened for Members of Parliament; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make adequate arrangements?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: In view of the fact that other persons are also allowed to attend these CHS dispensaries, may I know whether there is any proposal to increase the present staff?

Shri Karmarkar: The load on the present staff as it is in those three dispensaries set up for Members of Parliament does not justify the increase in staff, but it is much less than on an average CHS dispensary.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Dalli-Rajhara-Bhilai Line

***895. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dalli-Rajhara-Bhilai railway line was again disrupted this year during the monsoon;

(b) if so, for how many days the iron-ore trains could not use the lines;

(c) what is the estimated loss suffered by the Railways in freight and in restoring the line for normal use?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Train services were suspended due to subsidence on three different occasions totalling to a period of 97 hours.

(c) Approximately Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively.

Power Schemes in Third Five Year Plan

*898. **Shri Kodiyan:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has given sanction to State Governments to take up the work of certain power schemes included in the Third Five Year Plan even before the Second Five Year Plan ends;

(b) if so, the reasons for the early execution of these schemes;

(c) whether any such scheme has been sanctioned in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the names of the schemes and the nature of work to be completed during the Second Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). To remove the power shortage conditions which are likely to prevail in the early years of the Third Plan in certain States, sanction has been accorded for commencing preliminary works of certain Third Plan Power schemes in the Second Plan itself.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Preliminary works on the Pamba-Kakki Hydro-Electric Scheme.

Damage to Goods in Transit

*900. **Shri Sadhan Gupta:**
Shri Osman Ali Khan:
Pandit D. N. Tiwari:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to accept the recommendation of the Railway Freight Inquiry Committee that the Railways should accept liability for shortage or damage to goods while in transit; and

(b) if so, from which date this recommendation will be given effect to?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) According to the existing law the liability of the Railway for shortage or damage to goods in transit is that of a bailee. The recommendation of the Railway Freight Structure Enquiry Committee that Railways assume liability of a common carrier instead of that of a bailee has been accepted.

(b) Necessary legislation is being sponsored in the near future and the change over will be given effect to as soon thereafter as possible.

Irrigation and Power Projects

*901. **Shrimati Renuka Ray:**
Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the meeting of the Co-ordination Board, the Minister of Irrigation and Power has stated that many projects had been imperfectly investigated before they were set in operation; and

(b) if so, what machinery has been set up to see that full and complete investigations are made as speedily as possible?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The Minister had stated that in the first two plans, some of the projects had not been thoroughly investigated and that at times State Governments had urged consideration of schemes even before the completion of all the necessary steps.

(b) (i) At the instance of the Government of India, investigation units have been set up in almost all the States.

(ii) Provision has been made separately in the State Plans for surveys and investigations.

Looting of Steel Billets near Asansol

*905. **Shri Subiman Ghose:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel billets have been looted from wagons near Asansol on the 14th October, 1960 or nearabout that time;

(b) if so, what is the value of the steel billets looted;

(c) whether some Railway Police Force men have been arrested along with others; and

(d) how much worth of steel billets have been looted or stolen in 1959 and in 1960 in Asansol Division, Eastern Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). There was a case of theft from two open wagons at Hirapur Exchange Yard in which 104 pieces of steel billets valued at approximately Rs. 5,000 were removed and carried away on a truck on the night of 13th/14th October, 1960. They were later recovered by the police on 14th October, 1960.

(c) Yes, Sir. Three Rakshaks of the Railway Protection Force along with three other Railway employees and one outsider have so far been arrested.

(d) This is the only case of theft of steel billets in Asansol Division during 1959 and 1960.

Cow-Dung Gas Plant

*906. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the potentialities of the latest development in the design and manufacture of cow-dung gas plants have been scientifically examined with a view to conserving cow-dung manure in the country; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to subsidise its installation in the country by cultivators desiring to do so or in any other way help the wide propagation of the plant?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes.

(b) No subsidy but loans preferably in kind like steel etc. are given. It is proposed to conduct a short training course in installation and working of the Cow-Dung Gas Plant, at the I.A.R.I. for the benefit of supervisors and mechanics employed in State Agriculture Workshops.

Major and Medium Irrigation and Power Projects in Madhya Pradesh

1773. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of major and medium irrigation and power projects which are proposed to be executed in Madhya Pradesh by the end of the Second Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the estimated expenditure thereon and the extent of Union Government's help for these projects?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) A statement is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 43.]

(b) The estimated expenditure on these schemes during the Second Plan period is Rs. 56.68 crores. As regards Central assistance, the Government of India have given loans to the Government of Madhya Pradesh amounting to Rs. 41.655 crores during the Second Plan period till the end of 1959-60 under the following heads:—

	Rs. crores
1. Programme of Permanent Improvement of Scarcity Areas	00·215
2. Expansion of Power facilities	00·400
3. Chambal	21·000
*4. Miscellaneous Development Loans	20·040
TOTAL	41·655

*Schemes financed from these loans include, among other, irrigation and power schemes as well.

Rural Electrification in Manipur and Tripura

1774. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state the number of kilowatts of electricity sanctioned for the villages in the Union territory of Manipur and Tripura which have been electrified during the Second Five Year Plan so far?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): During the Second Five Year Plan a generating capacity of 650 K.W. has been added for rural electrification in Manipur, including Imphal town.

A generating capacity of 425 K.W. was to be provided in Tripura for this purpose during the Second Plan. Out of this a capacity of 350 K.W. has already been commissioned, and generating sets aggregating 75 K.W. are being installed.

Toll Tax on National Highway Bridges

1775. Shri Sugandhi: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any toll-tax is levied on any of the bridges over National Highways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha as early as possible.

Amount Allocated to New Delhi Municipal Committee

1776. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to New Delhi Municipal Committee under the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) the different heads under which this amount was given; and

(c) whether all the targets have been achieved?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Rs. 145.00 lacs.

(b) This allocation was made under Irrigation and Power head for development of electrical facilities in new Colonies and existing Municipal limits of New Delhi.

(c) Rs. 117.84 lacs was actually spent upto October, 1960. Up-to-date statements of the physical and financial targets achieved are laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 44].

Telegraph Offices

1777. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new telegraph Offices opened during 1959-60 all over the country;

(b) the total amount spent thereon;

(c) the total number of Telegraph Offices opened in Punjab (District-wise) during 1959-60; and

(d) the total amount spent thereon?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) 188.

(b) Rs. 20.11 lacs.

(c)

Name of District in Punjab State	No. of T. Os. opened during 1959-60
Ambala	5
Amritsar	1
Gurgaon	2
Hissar	3
Jullundur	1
Karnal	1
Ludhiana	1
Mohindergarh	1
Patiala	3
TOTAL	18

(d) Rs. 1.16 lacs.

Inland Water Transport

1778. Shri M. V. Krishna Rao: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the comments and suggestions of the Andhra Pradesh Government with regard to the report of Gokhale Committee on Inland Water Transport which was circulated to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the details and action taken is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 45.]

Passenger Amenities on N. Railway

1779. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent during 1959-60 for providing amenities for passengers on all the stations on Pathankot-Amritsar section of the Northern Railway; and

(b) the nature of amenities provided station-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Rs. 2,078 approximately.

(b) Dhariwal—4 Units latrines.

Batala—Wire gauze to doors of vendor's shop.

Homoeopathy and Ayurvedic Systems of Medicine

1780. Shri Sarju Pandey: Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state the amount of financial assistance given by the Central Government to Homoeopathy and Ayurvedic systems of medicine in Uttar Pradesh during the Second Plan period so far?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): A sum of Rs. 5,48,800 (excluding grants given to State Government institutions which are adjusted through ways and means advances) has been given as grants to the various non-Governmental institutions.

Construction of Railway Bridge on Chandra Prabha Canal

1781. Shri Sarju Pandey: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether money has been sanctioned for the construction of canal bridge over the Chandra Prabha Canal in the district of Ghazipur in U.P.; and

(b) if so, when the work will be started?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) The Railway is not aware of any proposal for the construction of a canal bridge over the Chandra-Prabha canal. Three separate proposals have however been received from the Irrigation Department for provision of bridges under the railway line for crossing of canals in the district of Ghazipur, as indicated below:

(1) Crossing of Nagsar Minor Canal at mile 438|14-15 on the Dildarnagar-Tarighat branch line; The work consists of provision of a 2 ft. diameter hume pipe culvert;

(2) Passing the Dheena Minor Canal through the existing bridge No. 413 at mile 450|22 between Dheena and Sakaldiah stations; and

(3) A bridge to cross Tarighat distributory at mile 443|15-16 on the Tarighat branch line.

The first work has already been taken in hand and is nearing completion while the other two are under examination. These works are chargeable wholly to the Irrigation department.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Development of Roads

1782. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himachal Pradesh Administration have requested the Central Government for financial help for development of roads in the State during 1960-61; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The following provisions have been made in the budget estimates for 1960-61 for the development of National Highways and 'Other Roads' in the Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh:—

	Rs. lakhs
(*i*) National Highways (original) works	42
(*ii*) Roads other than National Highways	115
TOTAL	157

In the revised estimates for 1960-61, the Himachal Pradesh Administration have proposed the following provisions:—

	Rs. lakhs
(*i*) National Highways (original) works	50·74
(*ii*) Roads other than National Highways	187·00
TOTAL	237·74

The Revised estimates are still under consideration.

C.D. Programme in Delhi

1783. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Community Development and Co-operation** be pleased to state the total amount spent on the Community Development Programme in Delhi during 1959-60 and 1960-61 so far?

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (i) Total Government Expenditure during 1959-60—Rs. 6,11,700.

(ii) 1960-61 (Six months April to September 1960)—Rs. 1,26,959.

Corruption cases on Northern Railway

1784. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the number and nature of cases of corruption committed by Railway employees during the year 1960 in the Ferozepur Division of the Northern Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Number of corruption cases detected from 1st of January to end of November, 1960 on Ferozepur Division is 20 and nature of these cases is given below:—

1. Accumulation of wealth disproportionate to known sources of income;
2. Acceptance of illegal gratification;
3. Cheating;
4. Misappropriation;
5. Falsification of records;
6. Misuse of passes and PTOs;
7. Misuse of Railway Materials;
8. Acceptance of materials below specification; and
9. Underweighment of consignments.

Search for Corpse of Girl in Delhi

1785. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of efforts made so far for the search of the body of a year old girl which disappeared from the morgue of a New Delhi hospital on 18th August, 1960, and

(b) the result thereof?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The dead body of the infant girl was removed from the hospital mortuary inadver-

tently by the persons who had come to collect the dead bodies of a mother and her still born child. When the father of the year-old girl came to collect the dead body of the child, the mistake was realised and search parties were sent out to retrieve the dead body but it was too late as the dead body of the girl had been cremated in the meantime.

Air Crash

1786. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plane of Delhi Flying Club crash-landed on the 16th August, 1960 in Kukur Mandar near Prahlad Garhi in Shahdara; and

(b) if so, causes of the crashlanding and details of casualties suffered?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) Tiger Moth aircraft VT-DHU of the Delhi Flying Club on a training flight made a forced landing near Prahlad Garhi village on the 16th August, 1960, resulting in minor damage to the aircraft.

(b) The pilot experienced loss of engine power and made a forced landing. The loss of engine power was due to the failure of a cylinder exhaust rocker arm.

No one was injured as a result of the forced landing.

Development of weaker Section in C.D. Blocks

1787. Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of **Community Development and Co-operation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to form a sub-committee at the block level for the development of the weaker section of the community has been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, whether such committees have been formed in any of the blocks so far?

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murtty): (a) The Annual Conference on Community Development held in June, 1960 resolved that a Sub-Committee should be formed at the Block-level with majority of members from the Weaker Sections for preparing plans for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Weaker Sections of the village community. The sixth meeting of the Central Council of Local Self Government held in November, 1960 has recommended that the Panchayat Samities, wherever necessary and possible, should have a sub-committee to look-after exclusively the programme for the welfare of Weaker Sections. The recommendations are to be implemented by the State Governments and the Union Territories

(b) Yes.

Punarnava

Shri S. C. Samanta:
1788. Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the auspices of the Central Council of Ayurvedic Research a panacea for eye diseases has been prepared from 'PUNARNAVA' an Indian herb;

(b) whether it is a fact that it has a wide publicity and demand in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, whether any scientific experiments have been made so far?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar) (a) and (b). No. The product has been put on the market by the Ayurvedic Research Council, a non-official organisation. The Central Council of Ayurvedic Research has nothing to do with this.

(c) Clinical trials with the medicine are under way.

House Building Cooperative Societies in Delhi

1789. Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Will the Minister of **Community Development and Co-operation** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 332, on the 5th August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the 238 house-building cooperative societies in Delhi some have no regular offices at all nor any fixed office hours;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some quite a few years old house-building co-operative societies do not supply either the annual progress report or the minutes of annual general body meetings to share-holders and thus keep them in dark about the transactions thereof;

(c) whether it is permissible for a house-building cooperative society not to allow the share-holders to resign; and

(d) if so, the conditions thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) It is a fact that some of the house building cooperative societies have no regular offices and fixed working hours. However, authorised office bearers keep records of such societies in their custody.

(b) Societies having a good turnover of business generally print their agenda, balance sheets etc. and supply them to their members but it is learnt that it is not the practice with some societies to supply annual progress reports or minutes of the annual general body meetings to all the share-holders individually.

(c) It is permissible for a house-building cooperative society not to accept a resignation under certain conditions prescribed under the bye-laws.

(d) The bye-laws vary from society to society but ordinarily a resignation is not accepted if the member has not been a member of the society for a specified period, has failed to give a notice in the prescribed manner, is in debt to the society or is a surety for another member indebted to the society.

Train Accident near Barh Station, Patna District

1790. Shri Subiman Ghose: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi bound 13 Up Upper India Express met with an accident near Barh Station in Patna District Eastern Railway on 2nd October 1960 or nearabout that time;

(b) if so, the cause of the accident;

(c) the number of injured and the extent of loss suffered by Railways;

(d) whether any employee has been punished for it; and

(e) if so, the category to which the employee belongs?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes. 2nd October 1960.

(b) Failure of railway staff.

(c) None were injured. Loss suffered by the Railways was Rs. 10|- only.

(d) Not yet.

(e) Does not arise.

Srisailam Power Project Report

1791. { **Shri Rami Reddy:**
Shri M. V. Krishna Rao:

Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2388 on the 9th September, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the Srisailam Power Project Report has since been examined by the Central Water and Power Commission;

(b) whether approval has been accorded; and

(c) whether financial sanction has been given to the Project?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). The report is still under examination.

(c) Does not arise.

Protection of Coconut Plantations

1792. Shri Kodiyan: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by the Centre during the Second Five Year Plan so far to protect coconut trees from diseases and pests in the various States?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Rs. 17,84,864 according to the figures so far available.

Guna-Maksi Railway Line

1793. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 674 on the 7th March, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the final location survey of Guna-Maksi rail link has since been completed; and

(b) if so, when the construction of the rail link will be taken up?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir. The Project Reports and Estimates are under scrutiny of the Railway Administration.

(b) The construction will be taken up as soon as the Survey Reports are scrutinised by the Railway Board and the Project Estimate is sanctioned.

Railway Bridges across the Cauvery

1794. Shri T. B. Vital Rao: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 656 on the 7th March, 1960, and state:

(a) whether the work of rebuilding the three Railway bridges across the Cauvery and Cauvery South near Seringapatnam on the Bangalore-Mysore Section has been taken up;

(b) if so, the progress made upto the end of November, 1960; and

(c) the amount spent upto that date?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No, Sir. Tenders for the manufacture and supply of pre-stressed concrete girders for these bridges have just been finalised and acceptance communicated to the Firm for taking up the work.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Rural Water Supply Schemes in Andhra Pradesh

1795. Shri Rami Reddy: Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial allocations for the implementation of the National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes in Andhra Pradesh have been considerably slashed and if so, to what extent; and

(b) what are the regions in Andhra Pradesh where the Scheme is now under implementation?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No final allocation has yet been made for the implementation of rural water supply and sanitation schemes of Andhra Pradesh under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (Rural) in the Third Five Year Plan.

(b) The Scheme is under implementation in the following regions of the State:

Andhra Region

1 Visakhapatnam Unit in Visakhapatnam District.

2. Palnad Unit in Guntur District.

3. Pattikonda Unit in Kurnool District.

4. Kadiri Unit in Anantapur District.

Telangana Region

5. Kattedan Unit in Hyderabad District.

6. Gadwal Unit in Mehboobnagar District.

New Strains of Rice

1796. Shri P. K. Deo: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether geneticists in Bihar have developed and grown new strains of rice;

(b) the increase in yield in harvesting these new strains of rice as against the usual yields of the existing varieties; and

(c) what steps are being taken to popularise these new strains?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The increase in yield of the new strains is 20% to 25% more than the yield of the existing local varieties.

(c) The Extension staff is giving demonstrations of the new varieties on the cultivators' fields. Seeds of the improved strains are also distributed to the cultivators.

Central Road Fund

1797. Shri Warior: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount has been allotted to Kerala State during this budget year from the Central Road Fund;

(b) the total length of roads sanctioned under the scheme; and

(c) the basis on which the Central Road Fund is apportioned to different States?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The Kerala Government have not so far asked for allotment from the Central Road Fund during the current financial year. However, an amount of Rs. 49 lakhs has been earmarked for allotment during the year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Road Fund is distributed to the various States on the basis of the procedure laid down in the Central Road Fund Resolution adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on 19th November, 1947, as amended by that Assembly on 8th December 1949 and the Parliament of India on 14th April 1950. Briefly, 20% of the revenue in the Fund is set apart as Ordinary Reserve. The remaining 80% is held in the "Allocation Account" of the States. From the Reserve, grants are made towards the cost of approved road schemes generally of inter-State importance or those serving the interest of the Union as a whole. Distribution of funds from the "Allocation Account" is made for expenditure in each State and Union territory in the ratio which the consumption of taxed motor spirit (other than spirit used in aviation) in each State bears to the total consumption in the territory of India during the calendar year ending in the financial year concerned.

Sales Tax on Edibles

1798. Shri Subiman Ghose: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether sales tax is charged on edibles supplied from the Railway departmental catering;

(b) whether such tax is charged in all the States and in all the zones; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the variations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). The position is that while a few State Governments have exempted departmental catering establishments from recovery of sales tax for edibles sold therefrom, some States are collecting it, while some other State Governments are demanding the payment. In the latter two cases, the issue has arisen whether the Sales tax laws of State Governments are applicable to installations which are directly under the Central Government and are run on a no profit, no loss basis. This mater is *inter alia* under examination.

Reclamation of Lands in Punjab

1799. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Punjab have recently approached the Government of India for aid for reclamation of vast areas of land in the State; and

(b) if so, the nature of aid sought and the Central Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). In May, 1960, the Government of Punjab, forwarded a scheme for reclamation of 1·25 lakh acres of culturable waste land for resettlement of 12,500 Harijans and agricultural workers. The State Government asked for Central assistance to the extent of 50% of the estimated cost. A scheme for resettlement of 12,500 families at a total cost of Rs. 1·6 crores has been included in the draft Third Five Year Plan of the State Government. The pattern of Central financial assistance for the Third Five Year Plan scheme has not yet been decided.

Godavari Flood Banks

1800. Shri Rami Reddy: Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the raising and strengthening of Godavari Flood Banks is under consideration;

(b) what is the estimated cost of the scheme;

(c) what are the benefits that are expected to be derived by the execution of the scheme; and

(d) what is the stage at which the matter is pending?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 108.29 lakhs.

(c) Protection of the existing irrigation system and the delta from the ravages of floods.

(d) The scheme has been taken up for execution by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, who have reported that about 80% of the work has been completed.

Ships from the Netherlands

1801. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase ships from Netherlands; and

(b) if so, how many ships are proposed to be purchased?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to purchase ships from Netherlands.

(b) Does not arise.

Sugar Quota for Delhi

1802. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) on what basis the quota of sugar is fixed for Delhi; and

(b) the mode of distribution among rural people?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a)

The quota for Delhi has been fixed on the basis of its average off-take in the past.

(b) Sugar quota is allotted to licensed sugar dealers. There is no further control over distribution of sugar in Delhi nor any difference between mode of distribution amongst urban and rural people.

National Nutrition Advisory Committee

1803. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 931 on the 31st August, 1960 and state the nature of Government's decisions on the recommendations made by the National Nutrition Advisory Committee?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): The Government have not yet taken final decisions on the recommendations made by the National Nutrition Advisory Committee.

Morbidity Survey of Government Employees in Delhi

1804. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 938 on the 31st August, 1960 and state:

(a) the progress made so far in the morbidity survey for Government employees; and

(b) when it is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The work of arranging about one lakh family cards, dispensary-wise, was completed by August, 1960. Out of this, 7,000 families from amongst those registered in 10 selected dispensaries have been selected *at random*. In October, 1960 house to house verification was started and this work is still in progress. As a part of the Morbidity Survey, a follow-up study of growth of infants and toddlers has also been started in September, 1960. This work is expected to be completed by the middle of December, 1960.

(b) The first phase of the Survey that is the collection of sickness data of the selected families for one year is likely to be completed by the end of 1961. The second phase i.e. collection of information regarding home surroundings, socio-economic conditions and continuous follow-up for about one year will be completed by the end of 1962.

Willingdon Hospital, New Delhi

1805. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pressure of indoor patients in the Willingdon Hospital is far greater than the number of beds available;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to cope with the needs of patients; and

(c) whether the condition of other hospitals in Delhi is better than that of the Willingdon Hospital in regard to overcrowding of indoor patients?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) The present bed strength is 240 and it is proposed to increase the bed strength of the hospital by another 500 beds, in stages, during the Third Five Year Plan.

(c) Conditions in other hospitals in Delhi in respect of overcrowding are similar.

Steel for Agricultural Purposes

1806. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that agriculturists are not the beneficiaries of the quota of steel earmarked for them; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to rectify the situation?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). It has come to the notice of the Government of India that supplies against agricultural quotas of iron and steel are inadequate and that the agriculturists are not getting full benefit of the agricultural quota allotted. The steps that should be taken to improve the supply and distribution in the States was considered in a Conference at Calcutta held in April, 1959 under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Agriculture. The Iron & Steel Controller, the representatives of the State Governments and the Ministry of Food & Agriculture participated in the Conference. The Conference, *inter alia* recommended that in order to improve the supply of iron and steel against agricultural quota, it should be accorded a very high priority ('core' priority). The recommendation has since been accepted and the essential requirements for agricultural purposes have since been included in the 'core' priority.

It was also recommended that an officer of the Agriculture Department in the States should be authorised under the Iron & Steel Control Order to operate the agricultural quota of iron and steel and that he should see that agricultural quota is actually utilised for agricultural production. The recommendation has been accepted and is being implemented by most of the State Governments. It is hoped that the agriculturists will now get full benefit of the quota of iron and steel earmarked for them.

New Locomotives

1807. Shri Achar: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new locomotives that were employed by the Railways during the years 1958-1959 and 1959-60;

(b) the number of the new locomotives allotted to each of the Zonal Railways; and

(c) the basis on which the said allotment was made?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 46.]

(c) The allotments were made with due regard to the requirements of each zonal railway to meet additional traffic. as well as for the replacement of overaged locomotives.

Area Under Cultivation

1808. { Shri Agadi: / Shri Sugandhi:

Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentage of irrigable area of net sown area, Statewise; and

(b) the same after completing the Second Five Year Plan projects?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) A statement giving net area sown and net irrigated area in India with percentage of net irrigated area to net sown area for the year 1956-57 is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 47.]

(b) Major and medium irrigation projects taken up in First and Second Plan periods on completion and on full development will irrigate about 38.51 million acres.

Drainage in Areas of Punjab and Delhi

1809. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three-man Committee appointed to report on the schemes necessary for removing the drainage congestion in certain areas of Punjab adjoining Delhi has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The

Committe has completed its deliberations and its report is under preparation.

(b) Does not arise.

Cholera in Kashmir

1810. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state how many persons died of Cholera in Kashmir during the months of October and November, 1960 and the help rendered by the Central Government for Cholera Victims of the State?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): Four hundred and ninety-nine deaths from Cholera have been reported from Jammu and Kashmir during the period 20th October to 16th November, 1960.

At the request of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, supplied to the State Government 8,00,000 cc of Cholera vaccine.

Postal Circle for Kerala

1811. { Shri Kodiyan: / Shri Maniyangadan:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government have requested the Centre to form a separate postal circle for Kerala; and

(b) if so, the attitude of Government in this respect?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Port for Export of Iron Ore

1812. Shri Achar: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Rumania and Italy have expressed their preference to lift the iron ore they want from a port in the West Coast of India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Information has been received from our Embassy in Rome that the Italians are anxious to send a delegation to India to negotiate the purchase of half a million tons of low grade ore from a major port on the West Coast on a long term basis.

A Rumanian Delegation is expected shortly in Delhi to negotiate the purchase of one million tons of high grade of iron ore for a period of 10 to 15 years. The Rumanians have not yet indicated their preference for any particular mining area but have stated that on account of the freight lead from India to their countries they prefer supplies from the West Coast.

Railway Committees

1813. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives to the following bodies in the Railways are elected from the staff or nominated by the organised unions;

(i) Labour Welfare Advisory Committees; (ii) Staff Benefits Funds Managing Committees; (iii) Productivity Councils; (iv) Quarters Committees; and (v) Hospital Visiting Committees;

(b) whether any modification is proposed in their set-up; and

(c) if so, the nature thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) (i). Of the six representatives of staff on these Committees which are now know as 'Advisory Committees for welfare works', four are representatives of recognised unions and two are nominated by the Railway Administration. (ii) Of the ten representatives of staff, six are from recognised Unions and the remaining four are normally elected by the

Central Staff Council. (iii) All the representatives of the staff on the Production Committees are nominated by the Administration, (iv) and (v) There is no Uniformity in regard to the composition of these Committees on the Railways, as individual Railways have been left to form such Committees, as appropriate.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Payment of Arrears to Employees

1814. Shri Narayanakutty Menon: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether all employees under the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, Trichur, and Superintendent, Central Telegraphs, Cochin, have been paid the arrears as per the Government order on the Second Pay Commission report; and

(b) if not, why the arrears have not been paid so far?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) No, Sir. The majority of employees have been paid arrears.

(b) The question of linking the pay of Task Work Messengers in the revised scale with the task work earnings is under the consideration of Government. After this is finalised, the question of drawal of arrears for Task Work Messengers under Superintendent, Central Telegraphs, Cochin will be taken up. As for other officials, action to draw arrears is in progress.

Full Finance Scheme

1815. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of **Community Development and Co-operation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have enquired about details of "full finance scheme" organised by Madras State;

(b) if so, what are those details; and

(c) whether Government propose that other States should also follow this scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Yes.

(b) A note outlining briefly some of the salient features of the scheme as approved by the Government of Madras is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 48.]

(c) The scheme is being tried in a few selected areas in Madras and no detailed evaluation of the results is yet available. It is understood that the Madras government have appointed a Committee to examine the working of the scheme. The question whether other states should be asked to take up the scheme will be decided only after a detailed examination of the report.

2. The Government of India on the 4th of October, 1960, have communicated certain policy decisions to state governments in respect of co-operative policy following the report of the Mehta Committee on co-operative credit and the N.D.C. resolution on that report. A system of outright grants to primary co-operative societies and central banks with a view to the creation of "special bad debt reserves" has been provided in this policy decision and the objects of the Madras schemes may also be achieved if the policy communicated to the state governments is followed by them.

3. As the implementation of the Full Finance Scheme requires intensive supervision over the cooperatives, the state government have been sanctioning subsidies to the Cooperative Central Banks towards the cost of employment of additional supervisors at the rate of 1 supervisor for every 3 agricultural banks and 1 supervisor for every 6 small-sized societies on a tapering scale indicated below:—

1st year	Rs. 100 per mensem.	
2nd year	Rs. 50	Do.
3rd year	Rs. 25	Do.
4th year	Rs. 12½	Do.

Government have so far extended subsidies on the above scale for the employment of 55 additional supervisors by the Cooperative Central Banks to work the full finance scheme.

Incident at Ambala Cantt. Station

1816. Shri Mohan Nayak: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a passenger ran amuck at Ambala Cantonment Railway Station on the 18th November, 1960 and injured several people with his sword;

(b) if so, the number of Railway employees injured;

(c) the number of passengers injured; and

(d) what compensation Railway is going to give to the victims?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes. Sir. A man ran amuck at Ambala Cantt. on 18th November, 1960 and injured 16 persons with his Kirpan.

(b) and (c). 5 Railway Employees and 11 Passengers.

(d) Only one Railway employee received grevious injuries and had to be admitted in the Hospital. The question of compensation to be paid to him will be decided after he is discharged from hospital and the extent of his disability is known. Meanwhile an *ex-gratia* payment of Re. 200 has been made to his family for meeting urgent expenses connected with his treatment and also half monthly payments, as admissible under the Workmen's Compensation Act, have been arranged.

Railway Land

1817. Shri Yajnik: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any plans for putting vast open lands lying alongside rail-tracks to any agricultural use with a view to increasing the production of foodgrains, cattle fodder or fuel;

(b) whether Government auction the rights of grazing or growing and felling of trees in the areas alongside the rail-tracks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Surplus Railway lands fit for cultivation, and not immediately required for Railway purposes are handed over to the State Governments for licensing them out to cultivators for growing food crops in connection with Grow More Food Campaign. Besides this, instructions have also been issued to Railway Administrations to hand over surplus Railway land, not fit for cultivation, to State Governments for afforestation purposes.

(b) and (c). Railways do not permit grazing on Railway land but grass is auctioned yearly for being cut and removed. So also fruits from trees auctioned annually. Dead trees are also disposed of by Sale or auction. Private parties are not granted rights to grow trees on Railway land.

Dalan Station

1818. { Shri Bholanath Biswas: / Shri P. G. Sen:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether even a ladies waiting room has not been constructed at Dalan Station; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for remodelling the station along with the construction of a Railway Colony there?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No separate Ladies Waiting Room has been provided at this station.

(b) No, Sir.

Killing of Pests

1819. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of **Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have suggested to the various State Governments for supplying insecticides to kill pests through Community Development agency; and

(b) if so, how many States are now following the suggestion?

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) State Departments of Agriculture as part of their plant protection work provide the facilities for supplying insecticides. Though the agency incharge of this work varies from State to State, the Community Development agency as part of the extension duty also attends to it. Wherever required the Central Government provide guidance to State Government.

(b) Most of the State Governments follow the suggestions of the Central Government.

***Ex*-Servicemen in Railways**

1820. Shri Maniyangadan: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3838 on the 1st May, 1959 regarding absorption of *ex*-employees of Defence Department and State:

(a) whether any decision has since been arrived at regarding the relief to be given to persons serving in the Railways with a salary less than what they received in the Defence service;

(b) if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) if no decision has been taken yet, what is the cause of the delay?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes. Sir,

(b) The matter was considered by Government and it was decided that there was no justification for giving protection of pay in cases where an *ex*-employee of the Defence Department was not drawing pay in a scale identical with that in which he was absorbed on the Railways.

(c) Does not arise.

Ammonium Sulphate for Tea Industry

1821. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest position regarding the release of sulphate of ammonia for the tea industry for 1960-61;

(b) whether the tea industry's full requirements are going to be met; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to give any substitute to the Tea industry in order to enable it to keep up its production?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The following quantities have been released so far;

(i) Tea Industry North East India 53,468 tons.

(ii) Tea Industry in South India 16,675 tons.

(b) No. In view of the general shortage, it is not possible to meet in full the requirements of tea industry as also of other consumers. The demand of Tea is, however, being met to a greater extent.

(c) For the North East India Tea Industry, a quantity of 16,161 tons of Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate and 918 tons of Urea equivalent to 23,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate on the basis of nitrogen, has been released. For the South India Tea Garden, the allotments of other nitrogenous fertilisers have been made as follows:—

(i) Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate 2,250 tons.

(ii) Urea 2,000 tons.

(iii) Calcium Ammonium Nitrate 1,000 tons.

Further supplies to tea plantations are under consideration.

Road Projects in Punjab

1822. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of road projects which were approved to be constructed in Punjab during the Second Five Year Plan period with financial assistance from Central Road Fund; and

(b) how many of these have been completed so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A statement is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 49].

(b) The work on the projects, which is being executed by the Punjab Public Works Department, is in progress. But no project has so far been completed.

Mobile Postal Service

1823. Shri Madhusudan Rao: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where mobile postal service is provided; and

(b) the names of the places where this service will be provided by the end of the 2nd Five Year Plan period?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Nagpur.

(b) It is not proposed to extend the service to any other place at present.

Railway Concessions

1824. Shri Warior: Will the Minister **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have received any requests from the Haj Pilgrims Committee of Malabar, Kerala State, for special concessions and accommodation on Railways from Kerala to Bombay; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). No re-request for concession has been received. A request for the provision of special coaches for Haj Pilgrims of Malabar from Cannanore to Bombay in March, 1961 has been received by the Southern Railway and is under examination by them.

Ex-Grainshop Employees

1825. { Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2543 on the 26th April, 1960 and state whether revised, instructions on the subject of Eastern Railway's ex-grainshop employees in regard to the absorption of surplus staff and determination of their seniority have since been issued?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): The matter is still under consideration.

Derailment near Paricha Station

1826. Shri Surya Prasad: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a goods train was derailed at Paricha Railway station on Jhansi-Kanpur section, Central Railway, in the 2nd week of October, 1960; and

(b) if so, the damage suffered and the cause of this derailment?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, on 13th October 1960.

(b) Rupees six hundred approximately. The derailment was due to failure of railway staff.

जाली टिकट

१८२७. **श्री मधुसूदन राव :** क्या **रेलवे** मंत्री २३ अगस्त, १९६० के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १२९५ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि मुरादाबाद और कलकत्ता में मुद्रणालयों द्वारा जाली टिकट छापने की जिन घटनाओं का पता चला था वह अब किस स्थिति में है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) : ये मामले अभी अदालत में चल रहे हैं ।

Major Irrigation Schemes in Himachal Pradesh

1828. Shri S. N. Ramaul: Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major irrigation schemes (above Rs. 50,000) taken in hand by the Himachal Pradesh Administration during the First and Second Five Year Plans in Mahasu and Sirmur District;

(b) the names of such schemes and their location;

(c) how many of them have been successfully completed so far; and

(d) the reasons for non-completion of the rest?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) There are no major and medium irrigation schemes in Himachal Pradesh. Schemes costing below Rs. 10 lakhs are minor irrigation schemes.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Bridge on River Jumna

1829. Shri S. N. Ramaul: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of a bridge on river Jumna on Rohru-Rajban Road, in District Sirmur, Himachal Pradesh, which was in the initial stages of costruction, has since been postponed; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The work of trial borings has been completed. An estimate of cost for the bridge work has been received and is expected to be sanctioned shortly.

Air Link Between Mithapur and Okha

1830. Shri K. U. Parmar: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for relinking Mithapur and Okha by air; and

(b) if so, at what stage the proposal is?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Commemoration Stamps

1831. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any commemoration postal stamps in memory of any Punjab personality had been issued during the last 10 years; and

(b) if so, the time and the name of persons in whose memory these were issued?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

New Delhi Central Telegraph Office

1832. Shri Manay: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the total hours of stoppages in the Central Telegraph Office, New

Delhi, during the month of October, 1960 due to:

(i) storms and cyclones;

(ii) machine faults;

(iii) carrier or VFT equipment faults; and

(iv) paucity of experienced technical staff;

(b) whether it is a fact that stoppages due to (ii), (iii) and (iv) above are heavy; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken so far or propose to take to reduce the stoppages?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a)

(i) Nil.

(ii) 371 hours.

(iii) Separate statistics for equipment faults are not immediately available. Total duration of stoppages due to equipment as well as line faults is 8243 hours of which the line faults constitute the major portion. The total number of circuit hours was 93,000.

(iv) No records of stoppages due to paucity of experienced staff are maintained but normally such stoppages are not experienced as adequate technical staff are generally available.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

New Delhi Central Telegraph Office

1833. Shri Manay: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of departmentally trained staff employed in the New Delhi Central Telegraph Office;

(b) the number of non-departmental and superannuated workers employed in the same office;

(c) the total amount of expenditure involved in employing workers on over-time together with the total hours of overtime performed during the period 1959-60; and

(d) the steps that Government propose to make or have already-taken to employ fully trained staff without incurring over-time expenditure?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) 1109 on 1-11-60 (class III & class IV).

(b) 90 on 1-11-60.

(c)(i) Amount of expenditure involved in overtime Rs. 2,05,845·31 nP.

(ii) Hours of overtime performed 3,20,453.

(d) It is the policy of the Department to meet sudden rise in traffic by employing staff on overtime, as it is the most economical arrangement. The overtime expenditure is incurred due to the sudden rise in traffic, absenteeism among staff, accumulation of traffic due to failure of channels and also due to shortage of staff. The Department is taking steps to train sufficient number of staff and to increase the leave reserve to meet the requirements of normal traffic.

Loans for Road Transport Services in States

1834. Dr. Samantsinhar: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to lay on the Table:

(a) the State-wise list of amount of grants and loans given by the Centre for the Road Transport services in the States during the First and Second Five Year Plans so far;

(b) what is the rate of interest and terms of payment of these loans; and

(c) which of the States have repaid the loans and to what extent?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No loans or grants have been given by the Central Government so far to any State Government for nationalisation

of road transport sevices. However, a loan of Rs. 3·00 lakhs was given to the Government of Kerala in March, 1960, for setting up a co-operative society under the 'pilot' scheme prepared by this Ministry. The Planning Commission have agreed to the inclusion of this scheme in the Second Five Year Plan.

(b) The loan granted to Kerala Government carries a rate of interest of 3-5/8% per annum and is repayable at not less than the following rates:

1st Year	15%
2nd Year	15%
3rd Year	25%
4th Year	25%
5th Year	25%

The amount of interest is payable separately every year;

(c) No repayment of the principal has been made by the Kerala Government so far.

White Tiger for Delhi Zoo

1835. Shri Birendra Bahadur Singhji: Will the Minister for **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some requests from various individuals to acquire the famous white tiger from the Maharaja of Rewa for being lodged in the National Zoological Park, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Maharaja has been approached in this connection; and

(c) with what results?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No request was received from any individual that the white tiger should be acquired and lodged in the Delhi Zoological Park.

(b) and (c). As white tiger is a rarity, we are considering the question of obtaining a couple for the Delhi Zoological Park.

Timber in Andaman Islands

1836. Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that some 7,000 tons of logs have been lying in the North Andamans in the Depots of M|s P C. Ray & Co., Ltd., the Forest lessee there, for a very long time and no shipment has been made by the Company for the last 6 months or so;

(b) what is the provision in the Agreement of Lease with the Company regarding payment of royalty in such cases where timber extracted and kept in the Lessee's Depots rots and is not shipped for long periods; and

(c) who bears the loss of royalty on timber that becomes rotten and useless and whether Government can claim its royalty from the Lessee Company if the Company fails to export timber in reasonable time?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There is no specific provision in the agreement with the Company about payment of royalty in cases where timber extracted and kept in the licensee's depot accumulates and is not shipped for a long time. But in the case of losses of timber arising out of negligence on the part of the Company, they are liable to pay damages, the measure of damage being the amount of the royalty that would have been payable on the quantity thus lost.

(c) If there has been any negligence on the part of the licensee as a result of which timber is lost, the licensee will be liable for damages. The measure of damages for such negligence will be the amount of royalty that would have been payable on the goods lost. When it came to the notice of the Ministry that the Company have not shipped the timber which has been lying in the Depot for some time and is deteriorating, they have informed that the responsibility for this loss will be entirely theirs and Government is entitled to recover from them damages to the extent of royalty payable on this timber in terms of the agreement of licence.

12 hrs.

RE: MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): I had given notice of an adjournment motion about the integration of Dadra and Nagar Aveli into Indian territory, but you were pleased to intimate that it is not a matter for an adjournment motion. Subsequently some new developments have occurred.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow this. I have repeatedly held that once I intimate that I refuse my consent to an adjournment motion the hon. Member ought not to raise it in the House immediately. If he does, then the purpose of my refusing consent will be absolutely defeated. The hon. Member converts himself into a Speaker and goes on like this. I have to decide one way or the other, and I come to a conclusion. I have repetedly stated that that is not the last word. If an hon. Member satisfies me that there is something else also, then I will bring it up tomorrow —I will never hesitate to bring it up.

Shri Hem Barua *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Let him wait and have patience. He can write to me or talk to me in my Chamber. My Chamber is part of the House. I dispose of questions, resolutions and other things in my Chamber. I do not bring them and dispose of them here in the House. In my office, the hon. Member may come and see me. If he does not want to come there, he can write to me. I will bring it up here tomorrow if he satisfies me.

12.02 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Supreme Court Judgment re *U.P. Sugarcane Cess Act*, 1956

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion tabled by Sarvashri Banerjee, Jadhav, Braj Raj Singh and a number of hon. Members relating to the judgment of the Supreme Court declaring the U.P. Sugarcane Cess Act of 1956 invalid.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad) *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Let him wait for a while. I was of the view that this is a State subject, and therefore when the Supreme Court has declared it invalid, nothing more can be done here. Then hon Member Shri Braj Raj Singh has written to me saying that that cess includes some portion over which the Central Government has got control. He wanted, I think, to ask one question. What does he want to ask?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: My point was that while the Central Government fixes the price of sugar ex-factory, it includes in it the cane cess imposed by the U.P. Government. It is Rs. -|3|- per maund of sugarcane. That means for one maund of sugar they realise near about Rs. 2|-. Cane cess was being imposed in U.P. since 1954 and subsequently in 1956 this Act was passed which has now been declared by the Supreme Court to be beyond the competence of the State legislature and therefore invalid. It was carried on after 1954 also and some crores of rupees are due to be realised . . .

Mr. Speaker: What is the point?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The point is that since the Act has been declared invalid by the Supreme Court . . .

Mr. Speaker: When was it done?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: It was done yesterday. The Central Government have now got to see that the ex-factory price of sugar fixed by them is decreased at least. If they cannot realise the arrears from the factory owners, they can do this very well, namely, that they can decrease the ex-factory price of sugar by Rs. 2|- per maund which shall be equivalent to

[Shri Braj Raj Singh]

Re. -|3|. per maund of cess on sugarcane. This is the direct responsibility of the Central Government. Therefore, they come in, and they have to explain.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): My submission is that the judgement of the Supreme Court—it has apeared in the *Statesman*—clearly says that this Act is not within the competence of the State legislature. A serious situation has arisen after this particular Act of 1956 has been declared invalid. So it is for the Centre now to come forward with some legislation.

It is stated here—

> "The appellant company owns a sugar factory at Pipraich in the district of Gorakhpur. It had filed an application in the High Court challenging the imposition of a cess under the U.P. Sugarcane (Regulation of Supply and Purchase) Act, 1953. Section 20 of this Act gave the Government power to impose a cess not exceeding 25 nP. per maund . . ."

Later on the U.P. Government brought a legislation in the month of May, 1956 . . .

Mr. Speaker: He need not go into the details. At this stage what I am only concerned with is this. Is there a censure on the Central Government by the Supreme Court.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: There is no censure.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K Patil) *rose—*

Shri S. M. Banerjee: But the State Government is losing Rs. 8 crores.

Shri S. K. Patil: This is a State Act which was challenged in a court of law. The Supreme Court has held that this particular Act is invalid. The Government of India only comes in in this way, namely that this particular cess that was charged on sugarcane—it is somewhere about Rs. 1·95 nP. or near about Rs. 2|- per maund—was included by the Tariff Commission when it recommended the ex-factory prices that we are charging. Therefore, the Government of India does come in indirectly.

Now the point is that the judgment was delivered only yesterday. We are in communication with the State Government as to what are going to be the repercussions. The cess comes to somewhere about Rs. 5 crores per year. Therefore, for the last two or three years over which this Act has been operating, it might have come to Rs 10 crores or Rs. 15 crores.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Rs. 25 crores.

Shri S. K. Patil: Maybe. This cess has been passed on to the consumers in the price. There also we are concerned. But there is no case for an adjournment motion just now because we are looking into that question. Under no circumstances shall we allow that money to go into anybody's pocket.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: That is my point. I do not press the adjournment motion. But the hon. Minister may be pleased to find out some method by which these Rs. 25 crores which have been recovered from the consumers may be recovered from the factories. For future also these 2¼ annas which are being charged may not be charged.

Shri S. K. Patil: He is saying the same thing. We are trying to see that that money which is there does not go where the hon. Member is expecting it to go. Some kind of legal action has to be taken by the State Government in consultation with the Government of India. We are proceeding about it. Twenty-four hours is too short a time to come to any final conclusion.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The whole point is that the State Assembly is not in session.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member cannot take up in this House whatever is happening in the State Government there and vest this House with jurisdiction over the State Government. It is for his counterparts in the State Legislature to take up this matter.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The U.P. Assembly is not in session.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will convene the Assembly.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: If you authorise me.

Mr. Speaker: I am dismissing this adjournment motion. Tabling an adjournment motion has become a common practice. The House may be interested, the Government may be interested but it was only yesterday that the Supreme Court found that that Act was invalid. Rs. 25 crores are involved, but should not we allow the hon. Minister an opportunity to think out as to what should be done?

An adjournment motion means censure of the Government. We are making light of it and because of that, just as in the case of the boy who went on crying "Tiger, tiger," even if it were a real case for adjournment motion I am inclined to dismiss it.

Shri S. M Banerjee *rose—*

Mr. Speaker: Order, order The hon. Member is irrepressible. I am trying to give him as much indulgence as possible. He is all alone here. He does not belong to any party, but all the same..... (*Interruption*).

Shri S. M. Banerjee *rose—*

Mr. Speaker: There is no meaning in his getting up like this. He is taking improper advantage of my indulgence.

I have devised a number of methods by which matters can be brought up here. If hon. Members are interested in a particular matter, I myself make suggestions. But why should there be an adjournment motion for every thing? Thereby, the seriousness of it disappears. Hon. Members must always feel that the whole country is looking to this House. We have no king here. It is the Parliament that ought to be the sovereign body. It must conduct itself in such a manner that what the Parliament does must appeal to the country. I expect that every hon. Member will increase the prestige of Parliament from day to day and make it the Supreme Sovereign body. Once any matter is brought up through an adjournment motion, it must be of serious consequence: not otherwise This particular matter could have easily been raised by way of a Short Notice Question or a Calling Attention Notice and I would have allowed it. I am really surprised that on every small matter there is an adjournment motion as if the Government should immediately go out of office. I am very sorry that these two hon. Members get up every day on some matter or other, even if I refuse my consent. I have devised methods to get rid of this kind of improper interference with the proceedings of the House. I dismiss—it is not as if the hon. Member is withdrawing—I dismiss this adjournment motion. It is very wrong.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: What fault have I committed?

Mr. Speaker: The fault is: I said I am not giving my consent and he again writes, "No, no. It is so much." I knew that notwithstanding my refusal to give consent, this hon. Member would get up.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I have not done that, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Both of them have done so. Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

12.11 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORTS OF INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION AND AIR-INDIA INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Reports under sub-section (2) of Section 37 of the Air Corporations Act, 1953:—

(i) Annual Report of the Indian Airlines Corporation for the year 1959-60. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2534/60].

(ii) Annual Report of the Air-India International Corporation for the year 1959-60. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2535/60].

SUGARCANE CONTROL (STATE OF PONDICHERRY) ORDER

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Sugarcane Control (State of Pondicherry) Order, 1960 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1359 dated the 19th November, 1960, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2537/60].

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SEVENTY-FOURTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): I beg to present the Seventy-fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

HUNDRED-FIRST REPORT

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): I beg to present the Hundred-first Report of the Estimates Committee on the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-ninth Report of the Estimates Committee (Second Lok Sabha) on Bharat Electronics Ltd.

12.14 hrs.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT (STANDING ORDERS) AMENDMENT BILL—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the Bill to amend the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Sir, during the course of the discussion yesterday, it was mentioned that the Certifying authorities give their decision without taking into consideration the viewpoint of the workers' representatives. It is not so. The workers' representatives are there before the Certifying officer and give their suggestions which are given full consideration.

12.15 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

A'so they have got a right of appeal. Also, the Unions can ask for modification under section 10(2). It was also mentioned that ordinarily employers take disciplinary action against workers without giving the union an opportunity to depute a representative to defend the workers. This has become a practice. Workers' representatives are allowed to defend them in the course of the enquiry with regard to disciplinary action. Standing orders are meant to give protection to good and disciplined workers. Of course, those who are determined to create mischief must be properly dealt with. Trade unions are now sufficiently organised in this country which by itself is the best protection for the workers. I think I have dealt with all the points which needed attention. I move.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2— (*Amendment of section 1*).

Shri Ramsingh Bhai Varma (Nimar): I beg to move:

Page 1,—

(i) *for* lines 8 to 10, *substitute*—

"(3) It applies to every industrial establishment wherein the number of workmen on any day during the preceding twelve months or on the day the Act comes into force or on any day thereafter was or is twenty or more:"

(ii) in line 15,

for "one hundred" *substitute* "twenty".

(iii) after line 19, *add*—

"Provided further that nothing in this Act shall apply to any industrial establishment to which the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Workmen (Standing Orders) Act, 1959 apply." (2). [Madhya Pradesh Act XIX of 1959.]

श्रीमान्, मेरे अमेंडमेंट में मैं ने पहली बात तो यह निवेदन की है कि सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट के गजट के अन्दर जब यह प्रकाशित कर दिया जाये तो एक साथ सभी जगह वह अमल में आना चाहिये। जब हम इस को स्वीकृति दे देते हैं और इस को कानून का रूप दे देते हैं उस हालत में अलग अलग गवर्नमेंट अलग अलग प्रदेशों के अन्दर अलग अलग तिथियों को इस को अमल में लाये, इस के बजाय मेरा निवेदन यह है कि इस को एक साथ सब जगह अमल में लाया जाये।

Shri Abid Ali: I beg to move:

Page 1, line 19, *add* at the end—

"or to any industrial establishment to which the provisions of the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Workmen (Standing Orders) Act, 1959 apply." (6). [Madhya pradesh Act XIX of 1959].

श्री आबिद अली : माननीय सदस्य का शायद यह खयाल है कि जिस तरह दूसरे कायदों में होता है कि पार्लियामेंट में पास होने और प्रेसीडेंट की स्वीकृति के बाद कुछ वक्त लिया जाता और गजट में उस का ऐलान हो जाने के बाद कायदे अमल में आते हैं। लेकिन इस में वैसा नहीं है। यह तो यहां से पास होने के बाद और स्वीकृति मिल जाने के बाद फौरन अमल में आ जायेगा। इसलिये गजट में कोई तारीख, जिस तारीख से अमल में आये उस का ऐलान नहीं किया जायेगा, और जो माननीय सदस्य ने यह सूचना पेश की है उस की गुंजाइश यहां है ही नहीं।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Do I put the hon. Member's amendment to vote?

श्री राम सिंह भाई वर्मा : मैं वापस लेता हूं।

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 1, line 19, *add* at the end—

"or to any industrial establishment to which the provisions of the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Workmen (Standing Orders) Act, 1959 apply". (6). [Madhya Pradesh Act XIX of 1959].

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3— (*Amendment of section 2*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member moving his amendment?

Shri Ramsingh Bhai Varma: No.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Any other amendment that he wants to move? No.

The question is:

"That clauses 3, 4, 5 and 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 3, 4, 5 and 6 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Clause 1. There is an amendment. He is not moving.

The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Shri Abid Ali: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

12.19 hrs.

MATERNITY BENEFIT BILL

MOTION TO REFER TO JOINT COMMITTEE

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague Shri Nanda, I beg to move:

That the Bill to regulate the employment of women in certain establishments for certain periods before and after child-birth and to provide for payment of maternity benefit to them, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 45 members; 30 from this House, namely Shri Amjad Ali, Shri Kanhaiya Lal Balmiki, Shri Panna Lal Barupal, Shri Bhakt Darshan, Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, Shri Chandramani Lal Choudhuri, Shri Bhaurao Krishnarao Gaikwad, Shri Aurobindo Ghosal, Shri Ram Krishan Gupta, Pandit Jwala Prasad Jyotishi, Shrimati Sangam Laxmi Bai, Shrimati Mafida Ahmed, Shri Inder J. Malhotra, Shri Jiyalal Mandal, Shri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair, Dr. Sushila Nayar, Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri, Shri Ram Garib, Shri K. S. Ramaswamy, Shri Jaganatha Rao, Shri Rameshwar Sahu, Shri Shibban Lal Saksena, Shrimati Jayaben Vajubhai Shah, Shri Shraddhakar Supakar, Shri K. T. K. Tangamani, Shri Umrao Singh, Shri Ramsingh Bhai Varma, Shri Balkrishna Wasnik, Shri K. C. Wodeyar, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda; and 15 members from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next Session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.

A comprehensive Central law on maternity benefit was long overdue, and I am happy to be able to bring forward this Bill before the House today. Maternity protection is now being provided under a number of

enactments. There are State Acts, and we have also three Central Acts, covering the subjects, namely the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, the Employees' State Insurance Act and the Plantations Labour Act. Even on important matters like the qualifying period, the rate and period of benefit, etc. the standards laid down in the different Acts vary rather widely. The main purpose of this Bill is to bring about uniformity. We have taken care to incorporate in the Bill the more progressive provisions of the existing laws, and we have also taken guidance from the standards recommended by the ILO.

When this new law comes into force, the Mines Maternity Benefit Act and the relevant sections of the Plantations Labour Act will stand repealed. It will also supersede the State maternity benefit Acts, and action in this respect will have to be taken by the State Governments. It will, of course, not be applied to establishments covered by the Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

The present Bill covers, in the first instance, factories, mines and plantations. The State Governments, however, will have powers to extend it to other establishments, industrial, commercial or agricultural.

The qualifying period for entitlement to maternity benefit has been put at 240 days' employment during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of delivery. At present, the qualifying period differs in the different Acts, both in respect of duration as well as in respect of the date from which it is calculated. In some Acts, the actual date or week of delivery is taken as the base for calculation. In others, it relates to the date of notice. The proposed provision will make it uniform.

The rate of benefit available under the existing laws vary between eight annas a day and the actual daily wage. We propose to introduce a uniform rate of benefit, which will be equal to the average daily wage, subject to a minimum of 75 nP. per day. The period of benefit also varies at present from eight weeks to twelve weeks. The present Bill provides for a benefit period of twelve weeks, including the compulsory period of six weeks following the actual date of confinement. In addition to these twelve weeks, we have also provided for further leave with pay at the same rate for a maximum period of one month in case of illness arising out of pregnancy or confinement. There is provision in the Bill also for payment of a medical bonus of Rs. 25, where a woman worker on maternity leave is not given prenatal, confinement and post-natal care, free of charge. Aprt from protection of employment and service rights during pregnancy and maternity leave, we have made provision for nursing breaks and employment on light work during one month before a woman worker proceeds on maternity leave.

Provision has also been made for sick leave with pay in the event of miscarriage. As the hon. Members will see, the Bill seeks to bring about uniformity by levelling up the standards in respect of maternity protection. It also provides for some special benefits like payment of medical bonus, leave with wages in the event of miscarriage, and additional leave in case of illness arising out of childbirth. These features were in no sense common in all the existing laws on the subject.

I have no doubt that the present Bill will be welcome to all sections of the House. As, however, the Bill seeks to consolidate the provisions contained in quite a number of enactments and is intended to supersede them eventually, it would be advisable to have the Bill closely examined by a Joint Committee of the two Houses. I would, therefore, request that the motion for reference of the Bill to a Joint Committee may be approved. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to regulate the employment of women in certain establishments for certain periods before and after child-birth and to provide for payment of maternity benefit to them, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 45 Members, 30 from this House, namely Shri Amjad Ali, Shri Kanhaiya Lal Balmiki, Shri Panna Lal Barupal, Shri Bhakt Darshan, Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, Shri Chandramani Lal Choudhuri, Shri Bhaurao Krishnarao Gaikwad, Shri Aurobindo Ghosal, Shri Ram Krishna Gupta, Pandit Jawala Prasad Jyotishi, Shrimati Sangam Laxmi Bai, Shrimati Mafida Ahmed, Shri Inder J. Malhotra, Shri Jiyalal Mandal, Shri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair, Dr. Sushila Nayar, Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri, Shri Ram Garib, Shri K. S. Ramaswamy, Shri Jagannatha Rao, Shri Rameshwar Sahu, Shri Shibban Lal Saksena, Shrimati Jayaben Vajubhai Shah, Shri Shraddhakar Supakar, Shri K.T.K. Tangamani, Shri Umrao Singh, Shri Ramsingh Bhai Varma, Shri Balkrishna Wasnik, Shri K. G. Wodeyar, Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, and 15 Members from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of Members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next Session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of Members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.

Shrimati Parvarthy Krishnan (Coimbatore): I welcome this Bill, because, as the hon. Minister is well aware, we have been asking for such centralised legislation on this important matter for quite some time. In fact, I feel that it has been long overdue, and I hope steps will be taken to see that once the Bill has been enacted by Parliament and the Act comes into being, it will be brought into force in the shortest possible time.

The reason for the necessity of a Central legislation is that we have to guarantee against the circumventing that is now taking place in various industries in various States on account of the loopholes that are there in the State legislations that have been enacted. There is a wide divergence in the various laws that exist in the different States, divergence with regard to the methods of payment, divergence with regard to the period of maternity leave that may be due to the workers and so on. Time and again, particularly in such industries as plantations, where the trade union organisation in some areas has come into being only very recently, we find that the employers make it almost a general practice in some way or the other to circumvent the legislation that exists. At the same time, we also find that due to the defectiveness in the legislation, dismissals from service or threats of the workers being rendered unemployed are frequently resorted to by the employers in order to avoid the payment of maternity benefit. Due to the unemployment in our country and due to the increasing unemployment, particularly of women in those industries where they have been traditionally employed, we find that this practice is quite easily followed by the employers and with impunity. Now, the rates are low and the payments are also long deferred. I am happy to find that certain provisions are being made for the payment to be made in time and to be of real benefit to the woman workers concerned.

After having made these general remarks, I would like to refer to certain clauses in the Bill. I hope the Joint Committee will go into those clauses in greater detail and will see it fit to amend certain clauses so as to make this Bill even better than it is now as introduced by the hon. Minister.

For instance, in clause 1 (2) we find that this Act shall come into force on such date as may be notified in this behalf in the Official Gazette. As I have already said, the Bill is very long overdue. But here we find this 'on such date' which leaves room for doubt and creates apprehension in my mind because 'on such date' as may be notified, may mean any date. I am not quite sure whether the Minister is thinking in terms of the coming general elections, but still I feel that a specific date would be much better. For instance, only recently we have been presented with the Report of the Joint Committee on the Motor Transport Workers Bill and there we find a specific date by which it should come into force. I feel that Governments' opinions are there more or less already. The legislation is there. The principle has been accepted and therefore, I do not see why there should be any difficulty in specifying a specific date as to when it should come into force as soon as the President has given his assent to it.

In clause 2, we find that the Act is to apply, in the first instance, to every establishment being a factory, mine or plantation including such establishments belonging to Government. Then it is provided that the State Governments may also extend the benefits of this legislation to any other establishment or enterprise that they may deem or consider necessary. Apart from the women workers who are employed in industrial establishments, plantations and government establishments, in our country we have a large number of women employed in other establishments. For instance, we have school-teachers, we have teachers in Universities and colleges, we have nurses and women employed in various commercial establishments. I would suggest that these women workers should also be covered by this Act and it should not be left just to the whim or fancy of a particular State Government to include this or that establishment within the purview of this Act; because we know very well that there are methods of pressure used in this country on various State Governments by various employers. Particularly, the larger the employers and the more financially sound the establishment, the more likely is the prospect of their getting away scot-free in regard to a legislation of this type. This has been our experience. Therefore, I would suggest that this clause should be suitably amended so that the vast majority are covered automatically by this Act without having to wait for the Government or for any authority to specify that this or that establishment should come within the purview of the Act.

For instance, in the place I come from, we have the seasonal factories. We have the cashew factories, coffee-curing establishments and so on. We have also seasonal factories in the tobacco industry. These factories and establishments are run by business concerns which have a fairly financial backing. Yet we find that although there is a certain amount of continuity in the employment of women in these factories, these women workers do not really get the benefit of much of the trade union legislation, *e.g.* the Industrial Disputes Act and so on. Because of the qualifying period that is mentioned in the Act, they do not get the benefit of the maternity benefit legislation. We find that in the cashew factories, tobacco factories and various other factories, the women workers are really penalised. As it is, they have employment only for a specified period of the year. Over and above that, they do not get these benefits which are very important and which really, in my opinion, are basic as far as women are concerned. The very principle of it is that those women who are employed should also have

[Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan]

the right to build their own homes and bring up their children to become healthy and sound citizens of a future India. This being the principle itself, I feel that it should be extended to all women who are employed, and those employed in seasonal factories should not be penalised just for the mere reason that the type of work that has to be carried on in these factories is only for 8 or 9 months in the year. It is as though one implies that women who are employed in the seasonal factories are to be denied the right to motherhood because of this Act not being extended to cover them also.

In clause 5, we find that six weeks before and six weeks after are specified. I would request the Joint Committee to consider in what way some guarantee or safeguard could be incorporated to cover a certain contingency in the case of women where the confinement may take place 7 weeks after they take leave, in spite of various calculations, doctors' advice, certificates and so on. In that case, will they get the 6 weeks after delivery and yet not be penalised for an extra week before delivery? They should not be told, 'You have taken one week extra leave; therefore, you will not get the pay for one week; you will get only for six weeks'. I have not myself thought out how the provision could be specifically amended to cover that contingency, but I would request the Joint Committee in all earnestness to go into this matter and find out how that contingency could be covered. It may be said that these are exceptions rather than the rule, but in a very serious matter like this exceptions also should be provided for and should not be lightly set aside.

In clause 8, we find that a specific sum of Rs. 25 is provided as a medical bonus if no pre-natal confinement and post-natal care is provided for by the employer free of charge. I am not really aware why this particular figure of Rs. 25 is sacrosanct and should be mentioned in this manner. Seeing how prices are rising, seeing the rapid rate of inflation and also seeing how most of our authoritative personages in this country keep telling us that inflation is a very normal trouble that we have to face in these years when we are marching forward towards progress and so on and so forth, what is so sacrosanct about Rs. 25? It may be that when this Bill was being drafted, Rs. 25 might have been considered sufficient, but I am sure that since that date, as on this date, Rs. 25 would not have the some value as it had when the Bill was actually drafted. Therefore, rathter than having the sacrosanct figure of Rs. 25, I would request the Joint Committee to go into the matter to see how provision could be made for hospital and medical charges to be defrayed by the employer in such cases where the employer himself does not provide for pre-natal confinement and post-natal care.

There may be people who say that hospital charges might be excessive; anybody may choose to a very expensive nursing home—I can almost hear the thought that is going on in the mind of the hon. Deputy Minister. But there also safeguards could be provided. A particular hospital could be specified, say, the nearest government hospital that is there or one of the many centres that are being opened under the very kind auspices of the Central Social Welfare Board. According to the statistics given to us, such places have sprung up like mushrooms. Be that as it may, if the hospital expenses could be defrayed and provision to that effect incorporated, with the safeguards suggested, so that it does not go up to a sky-rocketing figure, that would be far better than to have Rs. 25 which is a mere nothing in substitute for the care that the employer is called upon to give.

Then with regard to clause 26, I feel this clause should go because here we have the traditional loophole that we have in much of our trade union

legislation. Why should it be necessary for exemptions or the power of exemption or the right of exemption to be there? I am unable to understand it. Even without exemptions being there we find widespread attempts to circumvent the already existing defective legislation. Therefore, in order to make this legislation really effective and in order to put into practice all the high-sounding principles that have been stated by the hon. Minister, this exemption clause should be done away with altogether.

Finally—and on this point I am not absolutely clear—there seems to be no clause repealing State legislation that is already existing. I would like to know whether such a clause is necessary to be introduced so that this Maternity Benefit Bill, when it becomes an Act, will become a Central Act that governs all the benefits to women in regard to maternity, in employment throughout our country on an equal and fair basis.

With these words I would like to conclude and repeat that I welcome the Bill. I only hope that the Joint Committee will go into all these points of detail and will also see to it that these various loopholes that I have mentioned are plugged.

Shri Nanjappan (Nilgiris): Sir, I also welcome the Bill because it replaces a number of previous Acts. I shall consider the Bill from the medical point of view. Here is a pregnant woman who later on becomes a mother. She deserves special treatment. So, this Bill has been brought forward.

Dealing with the first condition, that is, miscarriage. It is defined as follows:

> '"miscarriage" means expulsion of the contents of a pregnant uterus at any period prior to or during the twenty-sixth week of pregnancy....'

'Prior to' is the thing to be considered here. Normally, pregnancy is of 40 weeks' duration; or, in other words, it is 280 days. It may be called miscarriage during these 26 weeks. Then there is a period of 14 weeks. Does it mean that also? If it is so, any expulsion from the uterus during those 14 weeks is called abortion. Why no mention is made in this Bill about abortion at all? So, I think, there is something to be added here in this Bill.

Again, this miscarriage is also treated on a par with delivery. Soon after delivery a woman gets the benefit of 6 weeks' leave with pay. So also, in the case of miscarriage, she gets 6 weeks' leave. In my view, this is a long period for a woman who has miscarried pregnancy. As a mother of a child, soon after delivery, she has to perform certain duties; she has to nurse the child; feed the child. In nursing she has to wake up during nights also and feeding drains away a lot of her health. So, she requires 6 weeks' rest. But a woman who has had miscarriage, I do not think, she requires 6 weeks' because miscarriage means still birth or a dead child. So, she need not feed her child; there is no drain upon her health.

Generally, our ladies do not wait for so many days. Even on the 5th day they begin to work. That does not mean that they can be put to any hard work. But 6 weeks' duration for miscarriage or abortion is quite unnecessary. That is my view. The Joint Committee will consider this and do whatever they like.

In the very same clause 3(j), the latter portion says:

> "but does not include any miscarriage, the causing of which is punishable under the Indian Penal Code, 1860;".

I do not know why these words have been put here. After all, she

[Shri Nanjappan]

is a labourer; she is very good at her work and the employer is pleased. So, she deserves kindness from him. He pays her during the period. This condition should be applied in a different place and it has nothing to do here in this Bill where the woman requires all the sympathy. Even if she comes under this she has to be treated, probably, by Government So, any kindness she gets from the employer should be there. I think this Penal Code need not be brought in here along with the definition of miscarriage and thus penalise the woman for practically nothing.

Regarding feeding, the period is put here as 15 months. I think it is quite unnecessary to feed child for 15 months—from the medical point of view. Medical men recommend feeding only for about 10 months at the most because the child starts putting on teeth from the 9th or the 10th month. Afterwards, it can be fed with harder substances and so feeding can be put an end to at this stage. So, 3 months can be reduced; instead of 15 months it may be 12 months. A child with teeth may even cause injury to the breast causing abcess of the breast. The danger is there. Therefore, it can safely be put as 12 months.

Average wage or 75 nP is recommended; and the hon. Minister said that this is an improvement over the original Act. Whether this will be quite all right will be gone into by the Joint Committee.

Again, Rs. 25 is put for all the treatment of delivery. I think this is too low in these days. Even if the lady goes to a hospital, I think, taking into consideration plantation labour, this will be quite insufficient because the hospital is far away from the place of work.

12.50 hrs.

[SHRI JAGANATHA RAO *in the Chair*]

I think that even in that case, this Rs. 25 is very less. In clause 15(a) in page 7, there is a reference to 'inspection at all hours'. I will recommend that it should be put as 'inspection during the working hours'. Inspection at all hours may cause quite a lot of hardship to an employer and it should be only during the working hours. With these words, I conclude.

श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा (नीमाड़) : सभापति महोदय, आज जो बिल पेश किया गया है मैं उसका समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूं क्योंकि इस की बहुत आवश्यकता थी। लेकिन चूंकि यह ज्वाइंट कमेटी को सौंपा जा रहा है, और उसके सदस्यों में मेरा भी नाम है, इसलिये मैं बहुत ज्यादा समय लेने की कोशिश नहीं करूंगा जो मेरे विचार हैं उन को मैं बहुत थोड़े में माननीय मंत्री जी के सामने रखना चाहता हूं ताकि उन को अपने विचार बनाने में मदद मिले।

वैसे तो हर एक स्टेट के अन्दर आप का मैटर्निटी एक्ट अमल में है और उस का फायदा भी ठीक ठीक मिल रहा है, इसमें कोई शक नहीं, जहां जहां पर एम्प्लायीज स्टेट इंश्योरेंस लागू है वहां भी हमारी बहनों को उसका अच्छा लाभ मिल रहा है और मैं यह भी मानता हूं कि जहां एम्प्लायीज स्टेट इंश्योरेंस का कानून लागू है वहां पर महिलाओं को उस स्टेट के मैटरनिटी कानून के अन्दर दिये गये लाभों से भी ज्यादा लाभ मिल रहा है। लेकिन यह जो बिल पेश किया गया है उस को पढ़ने से ऐसा लगता है जो स्टेट का ऐक्ट है, उस से कुछ बातों में यह पिछड़ा हुआ है। इसलिये माननीय मंत्री जी को उन पर थोड़ा सा विचार करने की जरूरत है। कुछ हमारी बहनें ऐसे उद्योग व्यवसायों में काम करती हैं जहां पर कि काम बहुत सख्त है और जहां पर

वर्किंग कंडीशन्स बहुत ज्यादा खराब हैं । उन को अब तक कोई फायदा नहीं मिल पा रहा है, और इस एक्ट से भी उन को कोई फायदा मिल सकेगा या नहीं यह शंका की बात है । इसलिये मैं आप के द्वारा माननीय मंत्री जी के समक्ष कुछ जानकारी रखना चाहता हूं और अगर ज्वायेंट कमेटी में इस पर चर्चा होगी तो मैं मानता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री जी को इस में काफी मदद मिलेगी ।

मैंने पहले भी प्राविडेंट फंड के बारे में कहा था और कल जब एम्प्लायमेंट स्टैंडिंग आर्डर्स की बात हो रही थी तब भी कहा था कि वे २४० दिन तक मजदूरों को परमनेन्ट नहीं होने देते हैं, बदली में रखते हैं, केजुअल लेबर में रखते हैं वही बात आ कर मैटर्निटी बैनिफिट में आ कर खड़ी हो गई है क्योंकि उसमें भी यह बन्दिश है कि साल भर के अन्दर जिस महिला ने २४० दिन तक काम किया होगा उसी को यह बैनिफिट मिलेगा । इस जमाने में जहां पर हमारी महिलायें काम करती हैं वहां पर वर्ष में २४० दिन की हाजिरी होना कठिन है । टैक्सटाईल जैसी बड़ी इंडस्ट्रीज में भी हम यह देखते हैं कि नई नई मशीनों के आविष्कार से जो संकट रोजी और रोटी का बहनों के लिये आ खड़ा हुआ है वह पुरुषों के लिये नहीं खड़ा हुआ । हाई स्पीड वाइंडिंग को डाला गया और देसी वाइंडिंग को उठा लिया गया । वाइंडिंग में हमारी बहनें ही काम करती हैं । हाई स्पीड वाइंडिंग के कारण जहां पर २० औरतों की जरूरत थी वहां अब ६ और ७ औरतें रह गई हैं । बारबार कोलमैन के आने से जहां पर १०० आदमियों की जरूरत थी वहां अब ४ आदमियों की जरूरत होती है । वहां पर जो औरतें काम करती थीं उन को पूरा काम नहीं मिलता है, और उन की शिफ्ट्स लगा दी गई हैं कि दो दिन तो औरत घर में रहेगी और १ दिन काम करेगी । जब एक महिला दो दिन घर में रहेगी और एक दिन काम करेगी तो ३६५ दिनों में, जिन में छुट्टियां भी आ जाती हैं, २४० दिन की हाजिरी कैसे हो सकती है और यह बेनिफिट महिलाओं को कैसे मिल सकता है ? हमारे सामने यह बड़ा भारी सवाल पैदा होता है और यह सवाल सिर्फ छोटी छोटी जगहों में ही नहीं, बम्बई और अहमदाबाद जैसी जगहों में भी पैदा हो गया है । इस के साथ साथ जिनिंग फैक्ट्रीज हैं । जिनिंग फैक्ट्रीज के अन्दर सिर्फ महिलायें ही काम करती हैं क्योंकि रूई डालने और कपास को ओटने का काम महिलायें ही करती हैं । जिनिंग फैक्ट्रीज के अन्दर इतनी खराब हालत है जिस का ठिकाना नहीं है । रुई उड़ती है और महिलाओं के पेट में उस के तन्तु जाते हैं । परिणाम यह होता है कि १२ महीने में वह छः महीने तो फैक्ट्री में काम करती है और छः महीने घर पर बीमार रहती है, और क्षय का शिकार हो जाती है । ऐसी हालत में वर्ष में २४० दिन की हाजिरी कैसे हो सकती है ? सीजनल फक्ट्रीज में इतनी खराब हालत है काम करने वालों की कि इस ऐक्ट के बन जाने के बाद किस तरह से किसी को फायदा मिल सकेगा, यह विचार करने की बात है । जब यह बिल ज्वायंट कमेटी में जा रहा है तो ज्वायेंट कमेटी इस पर पहले विचार करे सारी जानकारी लेने के बाद यह तय करे कि कानून बनने के बाद जिनिंग फैक्ट्रीज की बहनों को कैसे इस का पूरा पूरा फायदा पहुंचे ।

इस के उपरान्त जो बीड़ी उद्योग है उस में आम तौर से महिलायें ही काम करती हैं । मेरे प्रदेश में बीड़ी उद्योग में सागर, जबलपुर, और महाकोशल एरिया में लगभग ३ लाख महिलायें काम करती हैं । लेकिन जो इस उद्योग के संचालक हैं उन्हों ने कुछ ऐसे तरीके बना लिये हैं जिन से वे कोशिश करते हैं कि स्टेट या सेन्टर कोई भी कानून बनाये, उन पर उन को अमल न करना पड़े और उन का पैसा खर्च न हो । वे क्या करते हैं कि बहनों को तम्बाकू और पत्ते दे देते हैं और वे अपने घरों पर उन को ले जा कर

[श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा]

काम करती हैं । जिस तरह से कारखानों के अन्दर पीस वर्क होता है, उसी तरह से बीड़ी उद्योग भी एक पीस वर्क है और बहनें जितना अच्छा और अधिक काम करती हैं उतना ही उन को पैसा ज्यादा मिलता है । इसलिये इस चीज को देखने की जरूरत है । बीड़ी उद्योग वाले समझते हैं कि चूंकि वे अपनी झोपड़ियों में काम करती हैं इसलिये उन को वेलफेअर की कोई जरूरत नहीं है । वे बहनों को बुलाते हैं, पत्ते दे देते हैं, तम्बाकू दे देते हैं । वे आती हैं और दूसरे रोज बीड़ी गिना जाती हैं । इस तरह का लाखों का टर्न ओवर बीड़ी उद्योग में होता है । आज बड़े बड़े उद्योगपति हैं जिन को फुट पाथ पर जगह नहीं मिला करती थी, वे अबर सिर पर चल रहे हैं । मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि गरीब आदमियों ने बीड़ी उद्योग को शुरू किया और अब वे लखपति बने हैं । इस का मतलब यह है कि अज्ञानी लोगों को, खास कर महिलाओं को वे बीड़ी उद्योग में लगाते हैं । वे काम करती हैं और उन को वे लोग मनमाना पैसा देते हैं । वे किसी भी ऐक्ट का पालन नहीं करते हैं और उन बेचारी बाइयों से वे नाजायज फायदा उठाते हैं । इस उद्योग में काम करने वालीं अधिकांश बाइयां होती हैं । मेरा यह निवेदन है कि जब इस बिल को कानूनी रूप दिया जाय तो इस बात का खयाल रक्खा जाय कि बीड़ी उद्योग में काम करने वाली जो बाइयां हैं जोकि कारखानेदार के यहां से तम्बाकू और पत्ते ले जाती हैं उन का काम किस तरह से होना चाहिये ताकि उन को इस बिल का पूरा फायदा मिल सके । दूसरा मैं ने जिनिंग फैक्टरीज के बारे में कहा ।

13 hrs.

इसी तरह से फ्लोर मिल्स भी हैं । वे भी बारहों महीने नहीं चलतीं क्योंकि उन का आधार अनाज के ऊपर होता है । उन को कम अनाज मिलता है । इसलिये कोई मिल ६ महीने चलती है, कोई नौ महीने चलती है । उन के बारे में भी यह सवाल पैदा होता है कि २४० दिन की हाजिरी कैसे हो । और अब २४० दिन की हाजिरी नहीं होगी तो उन में काम करने वालियों को भी इस का फायदा मिलने वाला नहीं है । मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि जो बाइयां उद्योग में लगी हैं उन में से ७५ प्रतिशत को इस कानून का फायदा मिलने वाला नहीं है । कुछ उद्योगों में जहां दो चार ६ बाइयां काम करती हैं उन में उन को इस का फायदा मिलेगा और हम कहेंगे कि हम ने उन के लिये मैटरनिटी बैनिफिट ऐक्ट लागू कर दिया है । लेकिन आम तौर से उन को फायदा नहीं होगा । तो मेरा निवेदन है कि आप के विभाग को हर प्रदेश से यह जानकारी मांगनी चाहिये कि किस उद्योग में बाइयां अधिक तादाद में काम करती हैं और उन की कैसी हालत है । साल भर में उन्हें कितने दिन काम मिलता है । उस आधार पर उन्हें इस का फायदा मिले यह सवाल विचारणीय है ।

बहुत से व्यवसाय हैं जैसे दालों का व्यवसाय है । उस में व्यापारियों ने दाल मिले अलग खोल रखी हैं और उन में दाल और बिनायी का काम होता है । उन में भी बाइयों को बहुत तादाद में रखते हैं, किसी जगह १०० काम करती हैं किसी जगह २०० काम करती हैं । आप के दिल्ली में ही छतों पर बिनाई के लिये उन की लाइनें लगा दी जाती हैं और बाइयां काम करती हैं । उन की क्या हालत है यह देखने वाला कोई नहीं है । यह देखने वाला कोई नहीं है कि उन को कितना पैसा देते हैं, उन पर पेमेन्ट आफ वेजेज ऐक्ट लागू है या नहीं, उन की वर्किंग कंडीशन्स ठीक हैं या नहीं, उन के ऊपर एम्पलाईज एश्योरेंस ऐक्ट लागू होता है या नहीं । आज हालत यह है कि व्यापारी लोग सारे कानूनों से बचने की कोशिश करते हैं । तो हमें यह बात भी ध्यान में रखनी चाहिये ।

यही दशा तेल मिलों की है । कोई बड़ी बड़ी तेल मिलें साल भर चलती हैं, लेकिन बेहातों में बहुत सी तेल मिलें ऐसी हैं जोकि ६ महीने या ९ महीने चलती हैं और इन में भी बहुत बाइयां काम करती हैं । उन के लिए भी २४० दिन पूरे होने की बात है ।

आप ने इस बिल में यह चीज रखी है कि उन्हें जो ६ सप्ताह इधर और ६ सप्ताह उधर बैनिफिट मिलेगा वह इस तरह मिलेगा कि उन की जो १२ महीने की कमाई होगी उस का एवरेज निकाला जायगा और जो एक दिन का एवरेज होगा उस हिसाब से उन को बैनिफिट दिया जायगा । यह एक बड़ा सवाल है । उन को पूरे १२ महीने काम नहीं दिया जाता और उन्हें ले आफ करते रहते हैं । इस कारण उन की प्रतिदिन की औसत आय कम हो जाती है । आप ने इस में रखा है कि यह बेनिफिट कम से कम १२ आना होगा । यह देखने की बात है कि आज १२ आने के पैसे में एक साधारण व्यक्ति भी अपना पेट नहीं भर सकता है । हम उन को यह बैनिफिट और छुट्टी इसलिए देते हैं कि गर्भवती महिला आराम से रह सके, उस को पौष्टिक खुराक मिल सके और उस की तन्दुरुस्ती अच्छी बनी रहे और उस के जो बच्चा पैदा हो उस की तन्दुरुस्ती भी अच्छी रहे, और हमारे देश की मृत्यु संख्या में कमी हो, बढ़ोतरी न होने पाये । इस अवस्था में उन को कम से कम १२ आना दिया जाना ठीक नहीं है । किसी राज्य में एक रुपया दो आना होता है, किसी में १२ आना होता है और किसी में एक रुपया होता है और किसी में सवा रुपया प्रति दिन रखा गया है । मेरा निवेदन है कि जब आप एक सेंट्रल कानून बनाते हैं तो वह प्रगतिशील होना चाहिये ताकि तमाम राज्य उस का अनुकरण करें । आप देश की जनता से कहते हैं कि हमारा अनुकरण करो । आज पालियामेंट का अनुकरण देश को करना चाहिये । इसलिये मेरा निवेदन है कि यह जो कम से कम १२ आने की रकम रखी गई है उस को बढ़ाने की जरूरत है ।

इस में आप ने यह भी रखा है कि जो प्रतिदिन का औसत निकाला जायगा वह इस प्रकार निकाला जायगा कि जो रकम फाइन की होगी वह साल भर की आय में से निकालने के बाद औसत निकाला जायगा । आप ने फाइन एक जमाने में जिस दोष के लिए किया उस को अगले जमाने में क्यों माइनस किया जाय । तो यह भी देखने की जरूरत है ।

इसी प्रकार कुछ उद्योगों में बाइयों और पुरुषों को भी हाजिरी इनाम दिया जाता है, अगर कोई काम करने वाला पूरे सप्ताह भर हाजिर रहता है तो उस को एक रुपया और हाजिरी इनाम का दिया जाता है । मेरा निवेदन है कि बैनिफिट देने में इस हाजिरी इनाम को भी उस की आमदनी में मिला कर औसत निकालना चाहिये । और उस की जो फाइन की रकम है उस को माइनस नहीं करना चाहिये ।

इसी तरह से प्रावीडेंट फंड का सवाल है । अगर प्रावीडेंट फंड की रकम माइनस की जाती है तो वह उन के खाते में जमा होनी चाहिये और एम्पलायर को उतनी ही रकम उस में मिलानी चाहिये और अगर वह उन के खाते में जमा नहीं होती है तो जो उन को रोजाना मिलता है वह सब जोड़ा जाना चाहिये ।

इस में यह भी बतलाया गया है कि बाइयों को किन किन हालतों में यह बैनिफिट नहीं मिलेगा । इस में कहा गया है उन को यह बैनिफिट नहीं मिलेगा जिन को मिसकंडक्ट में सजा दी गई हो । मैं यह निवेदन करता हूं कि मिसकन्डक्ट के लिये उसे सजा मिलनी चाहिये, लेकिन जब बाई गर्भवती होती है तो मेरा यह मानना है कि मिसकंडक्ट की बाई को नहीं मिलती बल्कि उसके होने वाले बच्चे को गर्भ में दी जाती है । इसलिये गर्भवती बाई को मिसकंडक्ट की सजा के दोष से मुक्त रखना चाहिये । वह समय तो ऐसा है कि उन को जितनी भी सहूलियत दी जा सकती है वह दी जाय । गर्भ की अवस्था में वे जितना काम उन को

[श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा]

करना चाहिये उतना नहीं कर सकतीं । आप को डाक्टर बताएगा कि गर्भावस्था में बाइयां अच्छी तरह काम नहीं कर सकतीं । उन से ज्यादा खड़ा नहीं हुआ जाता और कुछ व्यवसायों में खड़े खड़े काम करना होता है । किसी को उल्टी होने लगती है किसी को कोई और शिकायत हो जाती है । तो ऐसी दशा में उन पर मिसकंडक्ट का दोष लगा कर उन को मैटरनिटी बैनिफिट से वंचित नहीं करना चाहिये । मेरा निवेदन है कि इस अरसे में उन को ज्यादा से ज्यादा सहूलियत दी जानी चाहिये ।

इस के साथ साथ ही मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि आप मजदूरों की भलाई के लिये कानून बनाते हैं लेकिन उन कानूनों से भी उन का शोषण होता है। वह शोषण वकील लोग करते हैं । मजदूर कानून न समझ पाने के कारण पेशेवर लीडर व वकीलों के चक्कर में पड़ जाता है और कुछ वकीलों का यह धंधा हो गया है कि वह लेबर लीडर बनते हैं और इस प्रकार मजदूरों को कोर्टों में ले जाते हैं ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह (वाराणसी) : माननीय सदस्य वकीलों पर यह बेकार का आक्षेप कर रहे हैं । वकील तो बहुत ईमानदार होते हैं और उन का पेशा हिन्दुस्तान में आनरेबिल समझा जाता है ।

श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा : होते होंगे । मैं तो उन का जिक्र कर रहा हूं जो लेबर लीडर बन कर मजदूरों को कोर्टों में खींच खींच ले जाते हैं ।

तो मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि आप अंग्रेजी में कानून बनाते हैं जिन को मजदूर समझ नहीं पाते, इस के साथ साथ उन का अनुवाद हिन्दी में भी होना चाहिये जिस से कि मजदूर उस को समझ सकें । मजदूर चाहे महाराष्ट्र के हों चाहे, गुजरात के हों, चाहे राजस्थान के हों, चाहे उत्तर प्रदेश के हों, उन में से अधिकांश हिन्दी पढ़ लेते हैं और जो पढ़े हुए हैं वे दूसरों को भी समझा सकते हैं । लेकिन अंग्रेजी में कानून होने से वे उस को नहीं समझ सकते और किसी अंग्रेजी पढ़े लिखे के इतनी फुरसत नहीं कि उन को समझा दे, उन से कहा जाता कि वकील के पास जाओ और ऐसा कौन वकील होगा जो बिना फीस के उस कानून की धाराएं समझा सके । इसलिये मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जो कानून बनाया जाय उस का हिन्दी में भी अनुवाद उस के साथ होना चाहिये ।

सटर के बहुत से कानूनों में ऐसा लिखा गया है कि जिस प्रदेश में अमुक कानून अमल में आवे या जिस कारखाने में वह अमल में आवे वहां के मजदूर जो भाषा जानते हों उस भाषा में वह कानून वहां रखा जाए । लेकिन कोई कारखानेदार उसे उस भाषा में छपवाता नहीं ।

जहां तक राज्य सरकारों का सम्बन्ध है मैं देख रहा हूं कि हर एक राज्य में हालत यह हो रही है कि जो भी कानून वहां मजदूरों के लिये बनता है वह अंग्रेजी में बनता है । इसलिये कम से कम मजदूर बाईयों के लिये इतनी तो आप सहानुभूति रक्खेंगे कि यह मैटरनिटी बेनीफिट ऐक्ट जब अमल में आये तो अंग्रेजी के साथ साथ हिन्दी में भी यह तैयार किया जाय और तमाम राज्य सरकारों को यह सलाह दी जाय और इस कानून में एक धारा भी इस सम्बन्ध में रक्खें कि जहां भी जिस प्रदेश में यह ऐक्ट अमल में लाया जाय तो उस प्रदेश की भाषा में इसका अनुवाद करा कर इस कानून को पास किया जाय ।

मन्त्री महोदय ने जो बिल रक्खा है यह बहुत ही अच्छा है और इस तरह के कानन की बहुत जरूरत थी और उसका मैं स्वागत और समर्थन करना चाहता हूं । इस अवसर पर मैंने सदन के समक्ष कुछ सुझाव रक्खे हैं

और बाद में मैं इसे और विस्तार से देखूंगा, अध्ययन करूंगा और ज्वाइंट कमेटी में अपने विचार रक्खूंगा। बस, इतना ही कह कर मैं अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूं।

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi (Puri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Bill which is being discussed and I also welcome the intention of the Government to refer it to a Joint Committee. I think perhaps with a view to improve the Bill, it is being referred to a Joint Committee. I wish to make a few submissions for the consideration of the Joint Committee.

There is a provision in the Bill about the rate at which the maternity benefit will be given. It says:

> "....the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of the average daily wage for the period of her actual absence immediately preceding and including the day of her delivery and for the six weeks immediately following that day."

They have given an Explanation also which says:

> "For the purpose of this subsection, the average daily wage means the average of the woman's wages payable to her for the days on which she has worked during the period of twelve calendar months immediately preceding the date from which she absents herself on account of maternity, or seventy-five naya paise a day, whichever is higher."

The Joint Committee should consider whether it will not be possible to calculate the average daily earnings as the average of the total full-time earnings of the days on which she worked during the month immediately preceding the day from which she absents herself on account of maternity, so that the average will be more. If the average is covered for so many months, naturally it will be less. Therefore, I suggest that the Joint Commi tee should consider this amendment to the explanation.

Regarding the 75 nP, the hon. Deputy Minister said that Government have tried to bring all the progressive sections in the different State legislations in this Bill. This 75 nP was already there. What is the improvement? When there is a clamour and demand that there should be equal wages for men and women for equal labour, naturally it should be not less than Re. 1. In the Employees' State Insurance Act also, they have divided them into groups of employees—employees whose average daily wage is below Re. 1, etc. They have found out a suitable average. Some times it comes to 14 annas minimum and sometimes it comes to Re. 1 or something like that. So, there should be a basis according to which this average daily earning should be calculated, for determining the maternity benefit to be given to women employees.

There is another provision in the Bill which refers to the period of employment, which says:

> "No woman shall be entitled to maternity benefit unless she has been employed in an establishment of the employer from whom she claims maternity benefit, for a period of not less than two hundred and forty days in the twelve months immediately preceding the date of her expected delivery."

Some other hon. Members have also suggested that this is going to deprive many women workers in different undertaking of the maternity benefit. I suggest for the consideration of the Joint Committee that it should be at least 100 days, whether continuously or intermittently during the period of nine months immediately preceding the date on which she absents herself on account of maternity. I think

[Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi]

this will cover a large section of women employees in different categories of industries. This suggestion may be taken into consideration.

The Deputy Minister said that after the passing of this Bill, the different State Acts concerning maternity benefit will be repealed. While implementing the different maternity benefit Acts, in their respective States, the State Governments have submitted reviews of the working of the Act. They have put forward their difficulties in the working of the Act. Punjab Government have said:

> "The majority of women employed in employments were widows and old women. The tendency of the employers generally is to employ old women in order to avoid the payment of benefits under the Act. Apart from women employed in perennial registered factories and on occasional temporary jobs either on contract basis or on daily wages. Such women workers are not entitled to any benefits under the Act"

So, to circumvent the provisions of the Act, certain employers take recourse to these measures.

The Bihar Government say that though there has been an increase in the number of female employees in some industries, there has been a decrease in the number of maternity benefit claims and it is difficult to attribute any specific reason for the same. So, it is clear that the employers are shrewd enough to avoid the implications of legislation for paying maternity benefits to women workers. There is also a report which has been published on behalf of the Planning Commission which says that the employment of women workers as a whole in the country during the last 7 or 8 years is decreasing.

In their annual review of the working of the maternity benefit Act, the West Bengal Government have said that they are of the view that there is a general tendency to reduce the number of women workers, as the provisions for creche and maternity benefit make their employment in the long run costlier.

So, these are the difficulties. While implementing the State Maternity Benefit Acts the State Governments were not able to give adequate maternity benefits to women workers employed in the respective industries in those States.

Take the case of the seasonal industries. There is a definite provision in the present Bill by which State Governments have been given adequate power to exempt establishments. What are those establishments? The provision says:

> "the seasonal character of the working of any establishment other than a mine and a plantation or a class of establishments other than mines and plantations,"

So, the State Governments have been given specific and clear powers and if they deem that any industry is of a seasonal character they can exempt it from the provisions of the Maternity Benefit Act. Then, clause 26(iii) says:

> "any other sufficient reason"

That term is too wide and too vague. The State Governments have been given power to exempt a factory for 'any other suficient reason". I feel that this provision for exemption should go.

With regard to dismissal during absence or pregnancy, the present Bill provides that an employer is entitled to dismiss a woman worker, even if she is entitled to maternity benefit, on the ground of grave mis-

conduct. What is a grave misconduct? Sir, you are a lawyer and you know what a grave misconduct is. If without defining "grave misconduct" you give ample power to the employer to discharge or dismiss a woman who is entitled to maternity benefit under this Act, I think it is going to deprive the women workers of the maternity benefit in many cases. Because, you are now leaving it at the mercy of the inspector. If the inspector is kind, well and good. Otherwise these women will be left to the mercy of lawyers who are experienced in trade union laws. So, the women workers will be driven to litigation. As my hon. friend, Shri Varma, has pointed out, by this povision you are unnecessarily forcing the workers to go to lawyers. Because of this loophole, the workers are forced to go to lawyers to get some kind of justice in court. Therefore, the floodgate of litigation is being opened by this kind of provision in the Bill. Then the workers will be forced to go to litigation and spend a lot of money for getting justice. Still, sometimes they may not get justice. So, this provision should go.

Regarding the decrease in the number of women workers employed in the light industries, two days ago there was a question and the hon. Minister replied that the number of workers is increasing in textiles, plantations and other like industries. He is of the opinion that it cannot be helped now. There seems to be a kind of helplessness on the part of the Minister in this matter when the number of women workers are decreasing. The Planning Commission has worked out how the percentage of women workers is decreasing in defferent States in differnt industries. I will just give a few figures of the percentage of workers in various States in 1950 and 1956:

State	*1950*	*1956*
Orissa .	28·2%	21·1%
Bihar .	8·5%	2·0%
Punjab .	4·8%	3·7%
West Bengal .	12·3%	8·3%
Madhya Pradesh	23·3%	10·0%

So, there is a tendency for empolyers to avoid women workers. The present Bill should be framed in such a way as to plug all the loopholes so that the women workers employed in the different industries and factories can get the benefits of this Act.

Then I have a suggestion to make with regard to the medical bonus of Rs. 25|-. The provision is that if the employer does not give free treatment, he should give the workers Rs. 25 as medical bonus. I think this is an apology for medical benefits. The hon. Minister knows, Government knows and every individual knows that in these days how costly it is to get medical treatment. It may be easy to conceive but it is costly to give delivery of a child and for getting necessary medical relief. The cost comes to not less than Rs. 70 to 100, for defraying all the expenses of delivery. So, let the employer be compelled to give free treatment for the delivery of women workers employed in the industries. If not, at least let the bill which a woman worker shall submit regarding the expenditure incurred by her be paid up to a limit. Let it be Rs. 50 or, better still, Rs. 100, but not in any case Rs. 25, which is too small.

These are the few suggestions which the Joint Committee might consider. If these suggestions are considered and incorporated in the Bill, I am sure the Bill will be improved and it will help a large number of women workers who need very badly maternity benefits. As this is going to be the first All India Bill of this kind, the Bill should provide all these reliefs. It is good that this Bill has come, although after a long time. One or two years ago, Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, introduced a Bill for providing maternity benefit and it is as a result of that, that the present Bill has come. It is a good thing and I welcome it.

श्रीमती उमा नेहरू (सीतापुर) : श्रीमान् जी, मैं अपनी सरकार को और मिनिस्टर साहब को मुबारकबाद देती हूं कि एक अरसे के बाद आज हमारे सामने यह मैटरनिटी बैनिफिट बिल पेश हुआ है। मुझे यकीन है कि इसमें जो भी कमियां हैं, वे सिलेक्ट कमेटी में दूर हो जायेंगी और वहां से वापस आकर यह वाकई एक मटरनिटी बैनिफिट बिल बन जायगा और मुल्क के लिये बहुत फायदेमन्द होगा। हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब खूब अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं कि हमारे देश में औरतों की हलत क्या है। जैसा कि अभी मेरे भाइयों और बहनों ने कहा है, उनके पास जो एजूकेशन है, वह पुरुषों के मुकाबले में नहीं के बराबर है। हमने इकानोमिक इंडिपेंडेंस आफ विमेन का जो नक्शा खींचा है, उसको दृष्टि में रखते हुए जब मैं इस बिल को देखती हूं, तो मुझे यह बहुत अजीब और कमजोर दिखाई देता है। मुझे यकीन है कि सिलेक्ट कमेटी में इस को ठीक कर दिया जायगा।

यह ठीक है कि कनफाइनमेंट से पहले और बाद में छः छः हफ्ते की छुट्टी होना स्त्री के लिये बहुत जरूरी है। लेकिन एक बहुत बड़ा सवाल यह है कि एम्पलायर उसको पहले ही निकाल, देगा, ताकि उस स्त्री को छुट्टी वगैरह न देनी पड़े। इसमें उस को बहुत मुसीबत का सामना करना पड़ेगा। बिल में कहा गया है कि डिलिवरी से छः हफ्ते पहले और छः हफ्ते बाद में छुट्टी मिलनी चाहिये, लेकिन अगर वर्किंग औरत का मिसकैरिज होता है, तो उसको भी उतनी ही छुट्टी मिलनी चाहिये, जितनी कि डिलीवरी की हालत में मिलती है। अगर मिसकैरिज नहीं होता और अगर तीन महीने का एबार्शन हो जाता है तो उस वक्त भी उसको उतनी ही छुट्टी मिलनी चाहिये यानी छः हफ्ते की। यह बात जो है, इसको पुरुष नहीं समझ सकते हैं, कोई मैडिकल औरत ही बता सकती है कि क्यों छुट्टी मिलनी चाहिये या क्यों नहीं मिलनी चाहिये। मैं आशा करती हूं कि इस पर सिलक्ट कमेटी जरूर गौर करेगी और सिर्फ कनफाइनमेंट को नहीं रखेगी बल्कि ये जो सब स्टेजिज हैं, एबार्शन और मिसकैरेज की, इनको भी उसके साथ साथ शामिल कर लिया जाएगा।

अगर यह समझा जाता है कि जो औरतें बड़ी बड़ी इण्डस्ट्रीज में काम करती हैं उन्हीं के वास्ते यह बिल है, तो मैं समझती हूं कि यह बिल अधूरा है, यह पूरा बिल नहीं है। सभी उद्योग धंधों में जो औरतें काम करती हैं उन सभी पर यह बिल लागू होना चाहिये। अभी हमारे माननीय सदस्य श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा ने बताया है कि औरतें दाल फटकने का काम करती हैं, बीड़ी बनाती हैं और मैं चाहती हूं कि उन सभी पर यह कानून लागू होना चाहिये। औरतों से बीड़ियां इसिलिये बनवाई जाती हैं कि उनकी उंगलियां जो हैं, फिंगर्स जो हैं, वे बहुत डैलिकेट होती हैं और उनसे जो काम वे कारीगिरी का करती हैं, वह मर्द नहीं कर सकते हैं। इसलिये उन पर भी यह कानून लागू होना चाहिये। मैंने सुना है और इसमें कोई शक वाली बात भी नहीं है कि मध्य प्रदेश में बीड़ी वाले बेहद रईस हो गए हैं। वे रईस हुए हैं औरतों की मेहनत से। हमें देखना है कि उन औरतों पर इस बिल का असर कहां तक पड़ेगा। सरकार को देखना चाहिये कि वे औरतें रजिस्टर हों ताकि वे आसानी से अपनी ड्यूटी अदा करने से छूट न जायें और उनको आसानी से निकाला न जा सके।

एक सब से बड़ी और अजीब बात मैं इस बिल में देखती हूं। इस बिल में मिसकंडक्ट का नाम आया है। इस मिसकंडक्ट शब्द के माने मैं आज तक समझ नहीं सकी हूं। मुमकिन है कि वकील साहिबान समझे हों। अभी एक भाई ने कहा कि वकील बड़े पवित्र और पाक होते हैं। लेकिन सच को झूठ और झूठ को सच भी तो वही बनाते हैं। लेकिन इसमें हमें कोई शिकायत नहीं है। लेकिन यह देखना हमारा फर्ज है कि अगर कोई वकील

कहता है कि इसने मिसकंडक्ट किया है तो हम उस वकील के कंडक्ट को भी देखें। इसका भी पता लगायें कि उसका कंडक्ट कैसा है। इस वास्ते मैं समझती हूं कि यह जो मिसकंडक्ट का लफ्ज आया है, इसको हम बिल्कुल ही निकाल दें, इसको बिल्कुल ही इस बिल से अलग कर दें। मैं चाहती हूं कि सिलैक्ट कमेटी इस पर गौर करे और इसको इस बिल में से निकाल दे। मैं आशा करती हूं कि जब यह बिल सिलैक्ट कमेटी से वापिस आएगा तो जो भी खामियां इसमें इस वक्त हैं, उनको हम इसमें नहीं पायेंगे। हम जो बहनें हैं वे चाहती हैं कि इसका बनिफिट औरतों को मिले।

एक मुद्दत हुई कि हमने सरकार से कहा कि जो हमारे बच्चे स्कूलों में पढ़ते हैं उनको दूध मुफ्त मिलना चाहिये। बड़ी मुश्किल से आज वह दिन आया है जब बच्चों को फ्री दूध मिलने की नौबत आई है। अब अगर आप चाहते हैं कि औरतें आगे बढ़ें और उनकी इकोनोमिक इंडिपेंडेंस का विचार अगर आपके सामने है तो आपको दरअसल पहली बात जो करनी है, यह है कि हर अस्पताल में कनफाइनमेंट के वास्ते जो मडिकल एड दी जाती है, वह औरतों को फ्री दी जाए। औरतों को या उसके घर वालों को इसके लिए एक टका भी खर्च करने पर आपको मजबूर नहीं करना चाहिये। जिस वक्त बच्चा होने की नौबत आती है उस वक्त औरत का फ्री मडिकल ट्रीटमेंट होना चाहिये और हर अस्पताल में होना चाहिये। यह व्यवस्था सरकार की तरफ से होनी चाहिये। अगर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट इस को इस वक्त बर्दाश्त नहीं कर सकती है तो दूसरी मेरी सजैशन यह है कि सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट इसको बर्दाश्त करे या दोनों मिल कर करें। अगर यह बोझा एम्प्लायर्स पर डाला जाता है तो उनकी हमेशा ही यह कोशिश रहेगी कि औरतों को नौकर रखा ही न जाए और अगर किसी वजह से वे उनको रख लेते हैं तो जब जरूरत महसूस होगी तो किसी न किसी बहाने से उनको नौकरी से अलग कर देंगे। इस वास्ते जो सुझाव मैंने दिया है, मैं चाहती हूं कि उस पर गौर किया जाए। सरकार को चाहिये कि जो मैडिकल एड इस कंडिशन में दी जाती है वह औरत को फ्री दी जावे और इसके लिए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को मजबूर किया जाए।

जहां तक मिसकंडक्ट का ताल्लुक है, इसको बिल्कुल ही हटा दिया जाना चाहिये। अगर आप यह कह कर कि किसी औरत ने मिसकंडक्ट किया है, उसको हटा देते हैं तो जरूरी है कि उसके साथ साथ कोई आदमी भी इनवाल्वड होगा और अगर उस आदमी को आप पनिश नहीं करते हैं और सिर्फ औरत को ही निकाल देते हैं तो यह बिल्कुल नेचुरल की बात होगी। हजारों तरीकों से आज औरत सताई जाती है और बाद में भी सताई जाएगी और जो इंस्पैक्टर हैं या दूसरे लोग हैं, वे इस बिना पर कि उसने मिसकंडक्ट किया है, उसको सतायेंगे। इस वास्ते आपको चाहिये कि आप उसकी रक्षा करें और इस मिसकंडक्ट लफ्ज को इसमें से निकाल दें। दुनिया में मिसकंडक्ट नाम की कोई चीज नहीं है।

श्री त्यागी (देहरादून): मिसकंडक्ट मर्दों के लिए है, औरतों के लिए नहीं है?

श्रीमती उमा नेहरू: अगर मुझ से पूछा जाए तो मैं कहूंगी कि मर्द और औरत दोनों एक चीज हैं। आज हमने यह प्रिंसिपल पाना है "ईक्वल वर्क और ईक्वल वेजिज" और यह आपकी पालिसी भी है। जहा तक मिसकंडक्ट का ताल्लुक है, वह एकतरफा नहीं हो सकता है. उसमें स्त्री भी आती है और मर्द भी। इस वास्ते अगर मिसकंडक्ट के लिए आपको पनिश करना है तो मर्द को भी करिये और औरत को भी करिये, सिर्फ औरत को ही नहीं

[श्रीमती उमा नेहरू]

लेकिन मुझे यह जो लफ्ज मिसकंडक्ट का है, बहुत ही बुरा लगता है और इसको इसमें से हटा दिया जाना चाहिये ।

आज हम प्लानिंग कर रहे हैं । हम विल्लेज इंडस्ट्रीज को भी बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं, उद्योग धंधों को भी बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं । इन को इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट लोग चलाते हैं और इनमें से नफा कमाते हैं । मैं चाहती हूं कि छोटे छोटे उद्योग धंधे में भी जो औरतें काम करती हैं, उनको रजिस्टर कर लिया जाए ताकि उनमें जो काम करने वाली औरतें हैं, उनका जो बोझा है, वह इन इंडस्ट्रीज को चलाने वालों के ऊपर पड़े ।

यह जो मैटरनिटी बैनिफिट बिल आया है, इसका एक नतीजा यह होना चाहिये कि जो हमारे सरकारी अस्पताल हैं, वहां पर औरतों का जो कनफाइनमेंट होगा वह फ्री होगा और मैडिकल ऐड जो उनको मिलेगी, वह फ्री मिलेगी । अगर आप ऐसा कर सकें तो इस बिल का जो मशा है, वह पूरा हुआ समझा जाएगा ।

Dr. Melkote (Raichur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Bill, particularly because of the fact that it has been referred to a Select Committee, it is all the more welcome. I would like to spotlight one important aspect of the question. That is with regard to the 240 days that is necessary for a person to get the benefits of this.

This 240 days period to my mind is an important proposition in many a case. Delivery takes place normally after about 275 days. If it is incumbent on any particular person to be in employ at least for 240 days, that is, in the very first month of her pregnancy she should have reported herself to work, and if she reports herself when she is pregnant, the factory owner or whoever may be the employer may reject her because she will not be able to deliver the work that is expected of her. Does it mean to say that because she is pregnant, she should be deprived of a job with which she has got to subsist? That is one of the main points one has got to take into consideration. This aspect has been brought in mainly for the benefit of the employer and not for the benefit of the employee. There are many cases where in people confine in the course of about 265 days. If 240 days period is applied, it would be impossible for such people possibly to report themselves and get themselves employed.

There is also the other factor. It is said that for 1½ months before confinement, 1½ months after confinement and for a period of one month, a person is eligible to take off during the period of pregnancy.

This is, no doubt, a very welcome feature in the generality of cases. During the course of the life of a healthy woman, when she gets married, pregnancy occurs as a normal feature. If during this period, as a result of pregnancy, she develops morning sickness which might run for more than a month, it is not in her hand to control it. Or later, when she is carrying the baby in the 8th or seventh month, she may develop toximia and she may have fits, which is beyond her control. She should not be deprived of the benefits of this Act. This is normal sickness due to pregnancy. Such cases are not very rare. These cases do occur though it is stated that in working women these are very very rare. It is during this period that the women needs the maximum care and atention and needs money. If this benefit is not given to her, where is she to go? Possibly, these women would have been employed in these factories by the employers for more than 8 or 10 years. It may be the 5th or 6th or 7th pregnancy that she develops trouble. Having rendered all this service to the factory, just because she falls ill, which is a factor which is beyond her control, to say that she should be given only relief for one month and nothing more, is a thing which I cannot

understand. I am putting forth these facts as this Bill is being referred to a Joint Commitee. I feel an exception should be made in the case of morning sickness and toximia. Where a doctor certifies, the period that the woman is entitled to such benefit should be extended for more than a month apart from the 1½ months before and after confinement.

There is the other case. One of the hon. Members said that in cases where miscarriage and abortion occur, the period of benefit should not go to 1½ months. I cannot understand the reason. The difference between abortion and miscarriage is the difference in the period in which it takes place. If it takes place before three months, it is abortion, and if it takes place before 7 months, it is called miscarirage before full pregnancy. In either case, the woman is bound to be sick. To fix a particular latitude and say that she should be sick only for so many days is not a possible feature. The period of 1½ months provided for a normal pregnant woman to take rest after delivery is a good feature. This should be extended both in cases of abortion and miscarriage. There is only one word used in this Bill 'miscarriage' which I am sure will cover even cases of abortion.

A sum of twelve annas is allowed to a worker for subsistence. She has also to maintain her family particularly if she is the sole earning member in the family. This is a factor to which the Joint Commitee has got to give careful consideration. They have got to give her as much as is necessary to subsist during this period, maintain here health, protect the child and protect the members of her family. This sum of 12 annas should be raised to at least Rs. 1-4-0 or Rs. 1-8-0. During this period, the woman has got to be protected. The extra money is not very much. During the course of a year or two a woman confines. Many women are not actually working in factories. Even if they are working, it is not throughout that they claim this. This extra money should be a welcome feature to women. In her interest, this ought to be permitted.

The scope of this Bill is limited. As many hon. Members have already pointed out, there are seasonal workers, daily workers and many other workers to whom these benefits do not accrue. I personally feel that the scope of the Bill should be extended in order to provide all these benefits to all these workers. With these words, I welcome this Bill. I feel that the Joint Committee should carefully look into all these aspects of the question and make the necessary amendments.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri (Nabadwip): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that some Bill for the benefit of women has come in, particularly the women who work. I am also happy to hear that there will be a Joint Committee to go into it where, I think, they will divest it of all aspects which are not so welcome.

Firstly, I would like to point out one or two things which I hope the Joint Committee will deal with. I am in entire agreement with the hon. Member who spoke before me that after all, this Bill says that any benefits would be given for six weeks before and six weeks after confinement. It is not only before and after confinement that a woman needs care and attention. There are the first three months when really most care is needed. Any medical practitioner will tell you that it is perhaps not so necessary 6 weeks before confinement. That is also necessary and I hope it will be there. At the same time, the first three months when the woman concerned may be feeling very very ill is the time when she should also get certain benefits. If not the full amount, at least, let there be half pay given to her or something like that. Should there be absence due to her feeling ill, let not those days' wages be lost, because she is in the course of bearing a child, she

[Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri]

is now a carrier of life and she needs every consideration.

Secondly, I would also say, I quite agree with my hon. friend Shrimati Uma Nehru that all the treatment of women during confinement and after confinement, should be the responsibility of the Government. Because, directly if you want to give benefits to women, the various concerns at once develop an outlook that they do not want to employ women. Why do our women want to be employed? Because, the economic conditions in this country are such that they have to be employed. If the economic conditions could come to that level where women could rear their children and sit at home and not be employed, that would be a different thing. When she has to be employed to run the household and get a little extra income, and, when an outlook is likely to be developed that we would rather not employ women as they have to get maternity benefits, I think it is the duty of the Government to see that they pay her a substantial amount and not leave her to wait till confinement to find out when that amount is to be paid to her. Perhaps she has to go in for a lot of litigation to get the money that is rightfully her due. Even under this Bill, you will find that many obstacles will be placed in her way. Thirdly, I would also say that it is very necessary that she should get further consideration even after she has been confined. When you are giving her a time for nursing her child and also periods of rest, when you are doing so much to give milk to the children, why not also enforce that small thing that a nursing mother, during her period of rest, should be given some nourishment. After all, what she earns in the factory is not really enough for her to give adequate nourishment to her child. I think, a nursing mother, if she could get some nourishment, would bring up her a healthier child. These are some of the aspects that I think that should be gone into. This is done in some western countries, I may point out to the hon. Minister. Of course, he may say that the financial implications in western countries is easier than in India today. But, this is something where, I think, the Consolidated Fund of India, which is a very grand sounding word, should be able to afford something for the women who are going to build up the future nation. I think it is very necessary that these three things certainly should be looked into.

Fourthly about misconduct, if misconduct is going to be taken as the criterion for dismissing a woman, even when she is carrying a child, why omit the man? Why should not everybody concerned in that misconduct be punished? Why should the woman only be put in the dock when there is misconduct? There is no such thing as misconduct by a person alone; I do not think even the lawyers know of any such thing. If she has stolen or done something like that, that is a different matter, and that comes under the criminal law. But misconduct as such implies certain things for which the woman alone is penalised everywhere I do not see why that should be so.

I hope the Joint Committee will go into all aspects, particularly these four aspects, when they sit, and they will also have a sympathetic look towards women who have to work in order to maintain their families, who have to work in order to keep up at least some standard of nutrition in their families, and who have got to work just to help the family. Until the economic conditions are bettered, I hope Government will not be lacking in their financial memorandum for payment out of the Consolidated Fund of India. Probably Government do not know how much it will cost. I may tell the hon. Minister that it will not cost such a very great amount.

Shri Abid Ali: We do not mind any amount.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: At least, the term 'Consolidated Fund of India' is a very good-sounding term, and I

am sure that for women a little of that fund should be spent.

Pandit Munishwar Dutt Upadhyay (Pratapgarh): This is a humanitarian measure, and I am sure that it must be welcome to all sections of society in the country. As regards the Members here, of course, all of us welcome it. I was very much encouraged by certain words just now expressed by the hon. Minister here, because I was going to say that although this measure is here before us, let us see how far Government go in helping these helpless women. It is really the helpless women who go to work in the factories and other establishments. Women who have got somebody in the family to earn a livelihood for them would not go to work. Generally, it is only the helpless women who have to go to work. Therefore, their conditions are very miserable.

Shrimati Uma Nehru: I would like to know one thing from the hon. Member. When he says 'helpless women', does he mean widows or women who have got their husbands at home or who have got husbands who do not earn sufficiently for the home?

Pandit Munishwar Dutt Upadhyay: I mean not only widows but also women whose husbands are incompetent to maintain them, and who are, therefore, obliged to earn. That is what I mean, and that is what probably my hon. friend has in mind.

I was happy to hear the words expressed by the hon. Minister, when he said that he would not mind any amount of money for this purpose, meaning thereby that he is prepared to spend any amount over all these measures.

Before I come actually to the suggestions that I want to make in this connection, I would like to say that this measure is really a great improvement upon the other Acts, either in the States or at the Centre here. I have seen that in respect of almost all the provisions, this Bill has become much more liberal, and now it is going to be made applicable to all sorts of establishments where women are employed.

This Bill gives now six weeks' time after delivery and six weeks' time before delivery. Besides, they have also provided for four weeks of lighter or easier work to be given to women if they so choose. This appears to be a great improvement upon the other enactments in this connection. They are also given an advance of wages now in two instalments, one six weeks before the time of delivery and another after delivery for the six weeks after delivery. Besides, they are given a medical bonus also. So far as the bonus is concerned, I would submit that the amount of bonus that is being allowed is too small. The amount is Rs. 25 only. And Rs. 25 in these days is nothing, and I do not think that it can in any way be helpful. So, this amount must be increased, if we really want the women to benefit by this provision.

As regards the average daily wages also, as other hon. Members have pointed out, 12 annas per day is very much inadequate. That also should be increased.

But there is one provision to which objection was taken by certain hon. Members. It has been provided that a woman in order to be eligible for this benefit must have worked for 240 days prior to her confinement. I think that is necessary. Otherwise, any woman can join just a few days before the time of delivery, say, for just six weeks, and then claim this benefit. I think that would not be desirable. Therefore, some limit should be there. The limit may be increased or decreased, that is a different matter, but there must be some limit. The limit that has been provided here seems to be a reasonable limit, namely that the woman must have worked for at least 240 days during that year.

Shri Warior (Trichur): No badli worker will ever reach this limit of

[Shri Warior]

240 days in any textile mill, which is one of the biggest employers.

Pandit Munishwar Dutt Upadhyay: As certain hon. Members have said, if these conditions are imposed, it is very unlikely that the women will get employment readily. In private enterprises and elsewhere,—and even in Government enterprises it is quite likely—they may not be welcome. So, the first thing that Government have got to do is that they must ensure that women get employment in public undertakings under the Government, or Government corporations and others where a Government are really controlling the establishment. They must see that women are employed in these concerns.

Further, in order to see that women get this benefit, really, and the undertakings are liberal about it they should make definite provision in this behalf, Government must subsidise even the private enterprises for this purpose and they must set apart some amount to help them in cases where the enterprises are not in a position to help these helpless women. Unless they are prepared to do it, I am afraid much benefit cannot come out of this measure, and there might be so many troubles. As some hon. Members have said, on the ground of misconduct and so on, a woman may not be punished. Of course, if there is misconduct, then action must certainly be taken against the woman concerned. To say that women cannot do any misconduct is, I would say, something very extraordinary. So, that provision . . .

Shrimati Uma Nehru: I would again say that I cannot quite understand this. We do not object to what the hon. Member is saying. But why should he always be saying 'women and misconduct'? Why should he not say 'women, men and misconduct'?

Shri Tyagi: It is not confined to men only. Are they immune from misconduct? Misconduct does not pertain only to some sexual irregularity. There are many types of misconduct. For instance, a woman and a man can both steal. For stealing, a woman does not need the help of a man, or a man does not need the help of a woman. So, singly also, a man or a woman can commit a misconduct.

Shrimati Uma Nehru: My point is not that. The word 'misconduct' is not a very happy word. If Government want to frame any legislation or frame any rules, it is better that they do not use this word.

Shri Tyagi: My hon. friend forgets that even in the case of Government servants, the word 'misconduct' is used.

Mr. Chairman: If Shri Tyagi wants to speak, I shall give him an opportunity later on.

Pandit Munishwar Dutt Upadhyay: We may have a discussion on 'misconduct' some time later. Let us finish the discussion on this Bill now.

My submission is that in case Government are really serious about it, they must see that in public undertakings women are given employment, and they must see that these provisions and rules are properly observed there. Even for private enterprises, they must take subsidies, and they must allot a certain amount of money for this purpose. It is only then that they can seriously adopt this measure and allow it to work. Otherwise, it will not work very satisfactorily, and there would be trouble, and probably these poor women may not get any benefit out of it.

Shri Tyagi: I entirely support this Bill from beginning to end. It is a very good measure. I support the suggestion made by Shrimati Uma Nehru who said that this benefit may not be fully utilised by all women

workers unless the maternity benefits reach the hospital doors as well.

14 hrs.

Shri Tyagi: I think it will be a very good thing if the State could make proper arrangements for free treatment of maternity cases. I would plead with the Committee that this must be seriously considered. After all it is not a discase. It is a thing in the normal life. There is no question of contracting a disease or infection or things like that in this. It is a human need. When children are born, it is the nation, factually speaking, that is born. It is not that a whole nation gets dropped from the skies. So I would very much insist that some extra benefits should be provided in hospitals by way of free treatment to all maternity cases.

As regards the word 'misconduct', I am sorry that this word has been misunderstood. It is not used in such a serious manner as is being made out. 'Misconduct' is a word used in administrative parlance. For instance, government servants are dismissed for misconduct. There are various types of misconduct, like disobeying, betraying a secret, making a nuisance of oneself etc. It applies to men and women alike. It does not really mean any serious or obscene type of allegation. There are workers in a factory. Some workers start quarrelling, whether they are men or women, and they create nuisance. There are other cases of workers not working, obstructing or misusing machinery or doing damage to the factory. All this is misconduct.

Therefore, the word 'misconduct' is used in a very wide sense. Therefore, I would plead with the House that it may not be misunderstood. It is a regular parlance in administration. Therefore, there is nothing objectionable in it. I support the Motion.

Shri Abid Ali: At the outset, I would strongly repudiate the suggestion made by the first speaker that no State Government should have discretionary powers in this regard, to which she referred, because the State Governments will be influenced by big business unduly and this power will be misused. There also the Governments are elected and there are members of the legislatures. Therefore, this sort of objection had better been avoided.

Another thing which has interested hon. Members was this word 'misconduct'. I am thankful to my hon. friend Shri Tyagi, for clarifying the position. Misconduct does not mean the ordinary meaning that goes with it. I should say hon. Members were misled in this regard.

Shrimati Uma Nehru: We are not misled. You do not say what is the type of misconduct. There are various types of misconduct. A person may be dismissed for misconduct or for bribery or for something else. So we should specify it. So far as women are concerned, we would like that it should be specified as to what is misconduct. 'Misconduct' has got a number of meanings.

Shri Tyagi: 'Corruption' also has got a number of meanings, but the words 'corruption' and 'anti-corruption' are daily used. It does not actually mean any one particular type of corruption. Likewise is the case with 'misconduct'.

Shri Abid Ali: That was exactly what I was explaining—'misconduct' as referred to in this Bill.

Mr. Chairman: Can 'misconduct' be defined in this Bill?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes. That was what I was going to say. 'Misconduct, as it is defined in the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Rules means wilful insubordination, disobedience, theft, fraud, dishonesty, wilful damage to property, habitual absence without leave, habitaual breach of any law and so on. It is defined there.

Shri Khushwaqt Rai (Kheri): What is the harm in saying here that 'misconduct' shall be construed as defined in such and such Act?

Shri Abid Ali: That is the intention and that will be what will be done in practice.

श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा : मेरा निवेदन यह था कि यह 9 महीने के अर्से में जोकि प्रेगनसी का समय ह.ता है, किसी महिला वर्कर का मिसकंडक्ट के आरोप में नहीं लेना चाहिए क्योंकि उसकी हालत उस अर्से म ढीली सी रहती है ।

Shri Abid Ali: It is not that a particular employee should be left to do whatever she likes. Suppose she goes about and beats people or commits theft.

Shrimati Uma Nehru: It is not a question of whatever she likes. But there will be so many cases where you will find that she will be worried by inspectors and others. She will be put to so much worry and trouble for 'misconduct'.

Shri Abid Ali: That is not the correct position. The trade union movement is sufficiently developed to prevent that from happening (*Interruptions*). This is already observed in practice. It is not that any employer is at liberty to dismiss any employee. There is a regular procedure laid down. It has to be followed. Then they come to Government. There is the industrial court, industrial tribunal and so on. So it is not that an employer says that there is misconduct and the worker is sent away. No. These procedures have to be gone through and the workers have so much protection these days. The trade unions will take care of misconduct on the part of the employers also.

Another point mentioned was regarding non-employment of women or decrease in the number of such employees sex. It is true that their number is going down. There are various reasons for it. One is automation. Another is the system of manufacturing processes having undergone changes (*Interruption*). This sort of running commentary may be avoided. I have been patiently listening to them. If you are willing to give them more time to speak, I will sit down.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): In other countries, in light industries, mostly women workers are employed.

Shri Abid Ali: I was submitting that the system of manufacture has changed according to which the requirement of women workers has gone down considerably. At the same time, there is also an increase in the number of women employed in industries like the telephone industry works at Bangalore, the armature winding in meter works and so on. There are several places where the number of women employed has gone up.

Shri Tyagi: With the result that men are being displaced.

Shri Abid Ali: More employment opportunities are made available.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: What is the percentage?

Shri Abid Ali: So far as the cotton textile and jute industries are concerned, because of changes of manufacturing processes, the number of women employed is going down. There is no doubt about that. There is also the demand for equal wage for equal work which, I must confess, is responsible for reducing the number of women in the employment. There is no doubt about it. Naturally the employer may feel that he should get the return for the amount he pays, and if women work for the same pay and the return is less, the employer is concerned, the Act does not ment. Of course, so far as the payment under the Minimum Wages Act is concerned, the Act it does not recognise any difference between men and women.

Shri Tyagi: You confess that men work better than women.

Shri Abid Ali: In certain cases; in others, women work better than men.

Then the complaint was made that old women are employed in preference to women who are married and likely to have a child, simply because they want to avoid payment under the Maternity Benefit Act.

About the Punjab, the hon. Member made a reference. Maybe. But the Joint Committee is fortunately having members representing all groups in this House. We shall be very glad to be guided by them to ensure how this decreasing tendency in regard to the employment of women could be checked. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri is also a member of the Joint Committee. The suggestions which she has given here can be elaborated during the discussions in the Joint Committee. We are certainly anxious to be benefited by their suggestions so that this tendency may be checked. On our part we have tried to find out the means. But, I must admit that, so far, we have not been able to find out any method of achieving that end.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Get more women here in Parliament.

Shri Abid Ali: Then hon. Member may go and send a woman; we will welcome her.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): Please do not stand this time. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Abid Ali: A suggestion was made with regard to giving publicity to the provisions of these Acts. The House will find that it has been mentioned in clause 19 that the abstract of this and the Rules framed hereunder should be translated into the local languages and put on the notice board. I would also request trade union organisations to do that as it has been done by the INTUC union in Kanpur.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Sir, may I rise to a point of order? What is the local language? We do not understand the term because it is not defined in the Constitution, or any Act passed by Parliament. In the Constitution they are all national languages. They are all enumerated in the Schedule to the Constitution

Shri Tyagi: Regional languages.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: He does not even say regional languages, although regional language is not the term used in the Constitution. The term used is 'national languages'.

Mr. Chairman: There is no point of order involved. The local language is the language spoken in the locality; it otherwise means the regional language.

Shri Braj Singh: I want to know specifically what is meant by local language.

Shri Tyagi: Brijbhasha is not part of Hindi; but my hon. friend comes from an area where Brijbhsha is spoken. That is a local language.

Shri Abid Ali: Clause 19 says, 'in the language or languages of the locality'. I think the hon. Member is satisfied.

I was mentining about a union in Kanpur having translated into simple Hindi the important provisions of the Provident Fund schemes so that the workers may be benefited and know what the Act and the scheme envisage. The same method can be adopted by other trade unions also. They may translate into simple language these provisions so that it could be understood by the workers in the various States and the regions—whatever the hon. Member may like to call it.

Of course, there is no need for me to comment upon what has been suggested here because I am quite sure all these points which have been mentioned will be placed before the Joint Committee which will give due consideration to them. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman: I will put the motion to the House.

The question is:

"That the Bill to regulate the employment of women in certain establishments for certain periods before and after child-birth and to provide for payment of maternity benefit to them, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 45 members; 30 from this House, namely Shri Amjad Ali, Shri Kanhaiya Lal Balmiki, Shri Panna Lal Barupal, Shri Bhakt Darshan, Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, Shri Chandramani Lal Choudhury, Shri Bhaurao Krishnarao Gaikwad, Shri Aurobindo Ghosal, Shri Ram Krishan Gupta, Pandit Jwala Prasad Jyotishi, Shrimati Sangam Laxmi Bai, Shrimati Mofida Ahmed, Shri Inder J. Malhotra, Shri Jiyalyal Mandal, Shri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair, Dr Sushila Nayar, Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri, Shri Ram Garib, Shri K. S. Ramaswamy, Shri Jaganatha Rao, Shri Rameshwar Sahu, Shri Shibban Lal Saksena, Shrimati Jayaben Vajubhai Shah, Shri Shraddhakar Supakar, Shri K. T. K. Tangamani Shri Umrao Singh, Shri Ramsingh Bhai Varma, Shri Balkrishna Wasnik, Shri K. G. Wodeyar, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda; and 15 members from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be on-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next Session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

14.15 hrs.

PREFERENCE SHARES (REGULATION OF DIVIDENDS) BILL

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to regulate dividends on preference shares of certain companies, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

As the House is aware, the Bill was referred on the 15th November, 1960 to a Select Committee consisting of fifteen members with instructions to report thereon by the 5th December. The Committee held four sittings. The Committee went through provisions of the Bill in detail and also took into consideration the views expressed and suggestions made in several representations from diverse sections of the public including associations representing trade, and individuals. It will be observed from the report of the Committee, which is unanimous, that the Bill has emerged from their scrutiny with only a few amendments to clauses 3 and 4. I shall now refer in brief to these amendments.

The recommendations of the Committee with regard to clause 3 of the Bill can be divided into two sets. The first set seeks to enhance the quantum of increase provided for in the Bill in respect of preferential dividends on shares issued and subscribed for before 1-4-1960. The second set of amendments only seeks to make certain provisions of the Bill clearer.

In the case of a preference share, the stipulated dividend on which is

declared free of income-tax, *i.e.*, payable without any reduction by the company on account of its own income-tax, the Committee have recommended that the quantum of increase should be enhanced from 25 to 30 per cent. Consistent with this recommendation, the Committee have suggested that in the case of a preference share, the stipulated dividend on which is subject to deduction by the company on account of its own income-tax, the quantum of increase should be raised from 7 to 11 per cent. Amendments have, accordingly, been suggested in sub-clauses (1), (2), (3) and (4) of clause 3. The effect of these amendments is that in the case of a 10 per cent tax-free preference dividend, the amount to be declared will be 13 per cent. In the case of a 10 per cent preference dividend subject to tax, the amount to be declared will be 11·1 per cent. The actual amount which will be payable by the company to the shareholder in the latter case will, however, be 11·1 per cent subject to a reduction of 20 per cent being the rate of income-tax applicable to companies, *i.e.*, 8·88 per cent net. The net effect of the proposed increases will be that in respect of preference dividend tax-free as well as taxable, there will be a net increase of 30 per cent over the amount previously being paid by the companies to the shareholders.

In suggesting the quantum of increase in dividends, the Committee had to take into consideration two opposite views in the matter. In several representations it was urged that the increase should be as high as 42 per cent. On the other hand, several others considered that the quantum of increase already provided for in the Bill was adequate and that the payment of higher dividend should be left to the discretion of the companies. The Committee, on considering both the views, have, if I may say so, rightly adopted a *via media*. In legislating for a compulsory increase in dividends, which is primarily a matter concerning the companies and their shareholders, it is necessary for us to move with caution. All the companies are not in the same position in regard to their capacity for payment of dividends. The proper thing to do would, therefore, be to fix a certain minimum amount and to leave it to companies which can declare a dividend higher than the minimum to do so in accordance with the usual procedure for declaring higher dividends. Considering all the circumstances, Government are of the view that the Select Committee's recommendations in the matter are acceptable.

I now proceed to the proposed amendment to Clause 4. This clause as it stood originally, laid down that in the case of a company, profits of which were only partly chargeable to income-tax, the increase in the preferential dividends as specified in Clause 3 shall be calculated only on that part of the dividend which is attributable to the taxed profits of the company. The Select Committee have recommended that the provisions of Clause 4 should apply only to companies having agricultural income and only the portion of the dividend attributable to such income should be excluded from the requirement of the increase in dividend. They have observed that the main purpose underlying Clause 4 was to relieve such companies from the burden of distributing increased dividends because agricultural income had always been exempt from income-tax and the reduction in the taxation on companies would not, in relation to such income, create any savings for enabling the declaration of increased dividends. The Committee also felt that the extension of Clause 4 to other companies might lead to complications which should be avoided. Clause 4, as amended by the Select Committee, will apply only to companies having agricultural income, such as tea companies which are liable to income-tax only on forty per cent of their profits, the rest being treated as agricultural income which is exempt. I commend these amendments for the acceptance of the House.

[Dr. B. Gopala Reddi]

Sir, I have dealt with the amendments suggested by the Committee, and need not now detain the House over the detailed provisions of the Bill as I have already dealt with them at the time of the motion for referring the Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to regulate dividends on preference shares of certain companies, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Before the discussion starts, may I get a clarification? I do not want to speak. What will be the position of a preference share with tax free bonus, which is also permitted to participate in profits? There are shares which get tax free dividend, say, of 9 per cent. Then they are also permitted to participate in the profits.

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: This Bill applies only to the preference shares and what they are entitled to under the relevant articles of association, is a different matter. If for instance a preference share got 9 per cent dividend tax free, then it can get 30 per cent more.

Shri Tyagi: There are tax free preference shares also which are entitled to participate sometimes in the profits of a company.

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: This is perhaps a different thing; I do not know. This was not considered by the Select Committee nor was it brought to its notice. If they are there, they will be dealt with according to the provisions of the articles of association or the Company Law. Here we are concerned only with the preference shares and they will be entitled to go up to 30 per cent.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): Sir, I am happy in a way that the Select Committee was able to strike a *via media* in respect of a question which was virtually convulsing the stock exchanges of India. We all appreciate the fact that preference shares constitute a very important and integral part of our financial structure and it is not the desire of this House or of the Government to do anything by or as a result of a change in the pattern of company taxation to prejudice the position of the preference share holders.

The House will recall that the entire trouble started as a result of the abolition of the grossing up scheme. Because of the abolition of the grossing up scheme, there was a different interpretation placed with regard to what the preference shares were entitled to. Preference shares, for the purpose of the Bill, are of two types: tax free preference shares and those that are subject to tax. Preference shares are really a matter of agreement between the company and the shareholders. Various companies have defined the rights of preference shareholders in different ways so that really speaking, it is a question of contract. The issue before the Government was whether it should intervene in order to modify the terms of these contracts. I have always felt that, while the contracts between two private parties, the company management and the shareholder should not be interfered with, generally, where as a result of a change in the pattern of taxation it appears that one party to the agreement gets the worst of it for no fault of its, then the intervention of the State would be necessary and on that principle I take it that the Government had brought forward this Bill.

I am mentioning this fact as the background to explain why we came to this particular compromise in the Select Committee. The interpretation that was put by certain company managements was: we shall stick to the letter of the law so far as our agreement with the preference shareholders is concerned; if we have said that they will get seven per cent subject to tax we shall deduct the tax and give them seven per cent. They said that they were not concerned

whether the shareholders were able to procure a refund from the income-tax department and that it was a matter between the shareholder and the income-tax department. If as a result of abolition of the grossing up and change in the company taxation pattern, the right of the shareholder to claim refund from the income-tax department has been taken away, the company management said that it was purely a matter between the income-tax department and the preference shareholder. The companies were thus trying to take away from the shareholders certain amount of dividend to which they were entitled.

When a shareholder purchases a preference share in the market, he pays a price for it and that price is based not only on the agreement between the preference shareholder and the company but also on the general structure of the taxation as it then stood. The preference shareholder undersood that he would also be entitled to a refund of the tax. Further, if I get Rs. 7 from the company and if I know that I am also entitled to get Rs. 3 from the income-tax department, the income on which I capitalise is not Rs. 7 but Rs. 10. When the stucture of taxation has been altered, my share which brought me Rs. 10 previously, was not bringing Rs. 10 but only Rs. 7. It was this interpretation which brought about a sudden downfall in the value of preference shares in the markets and the Government had to intervene. Preference shares constitute an important and integral part of our financial structure: they are held by numerous institutions, charitable institutions. It has also become the recognised mode of investment so far as certain categories of investors are concerned, such the widows and others who would like to see that their investment is secure and who do not want to participate in the speculative element, namely, the element that is associated with equity shares. When the bottom was knocked out of that sense of security, it was time that Government intervened.

When the Bill came here, there were two claimants: one making an extreme claim that to the full extent that the preference shareholder was deprived of his refund, the Bill should make good the amount in full. It was calculated that it would mean giving as much as 43 per cent more. The second claim was that if at all Government are intervening, it should be fixed at not more than 25 per cent. The State Committee, after taking into consideration, several factors decided that thirty per cent would be an appropriate and reasonable adjustment in the case of a tax free preference share and eleven per cent, in the case of taxable shares. Now, why did we arrive at that compromise? If we examine this tax free 30 per cent, it does not really work out to the full benefit which the preference shareholder had before the grossing up scheme was abolished. It does not give him full Rs. 3. We had to compromise on this, because we had to take into consideration the capacity of certain companies to make good this amount. Could the companies bear that burden, because the Bill has retrospective effect? We had to look into that also. At the same time we had to see that some measure of compensation had to be given to the preference shareholders. We, therefore, came to the conclusion that if tax-free dividends were increased to 30 per cent, then it would in a large measure, if not fully, compensate the preference shareholders. Working out on the same basis it was calculated that it would come to 11 point odd per cent. In this way we have steered clear of the two major difficulties; one, the difficulty that would have arisen if we had left the preference shareholders completely stranded which was really unfair, because it was really a change in the tax structure which created all these difficulties; second, if we had gone right up to 43 per cent it would have broken the backs of several companies, because that would have meant their making good all this back-log which they had not so far

[Shri Naushir Bharucha]

paid. That in itself was a difficult proposition.

14.33 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Therefore, the Select Committee rightly decided that it should be 30 per cent and 11 per cent.

Sir, in addition to that there were one or two questions in support of which certain representations were made. One was with regard to agricultural income (clause 4) which the hon. Minister dealt with at length. There was also another difficulty represented that if we are at all to give something extra above 30 per cent and 11 per cent, in that case consent under section 106 of the Companies Act would become necessary. Clause 5 says:

> "(1) The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any law for the time being in force or in the memorandum or articles of a company or in any resolution passed by the company in a general meeting or by its Board of Directors;
>
> (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, a company may, in the manner provided in section 106 of the Companies Act, increase the amount of dividend in respect of a preference share beyond the limit specified in section 3 or section 4 of this Act."

It was represented to us that it would not be possible to comply with the provisions of section 106 with regard to certain shares and therefore the provision would remain a dead letter. Advantage has been taken to amend the section 106, at the time provisions of the Companies Act were considered.

If the Government had gone beyond 30 per cent, and was suggested by some the increase had been made more than that, there would have been an adverse effect on equity shares and they would have gone down in value. They had gone up to an extent because it was felt that what had been taken away from the preference shareholder would come into the divisible pool of the equity shares. If we had not done this, this amount would have to be reimbursed with retrospective effect and certain companies would not have been able to declare any dividend on equity shares; also we would have brought about a crash in equity shares. Steering clear of these two difficulties, the Select Committee have wisely adopted this *via media*. I think this is a *via media* which will save the preference shareholders. Those who do not realise this may not appreciate the difficulties with which the Select Committee had to contend. They cannot expect that the mischief, if I may use the word technically, of abolition of grossing up cannot be completely wiped out so far as preference shareholders are concerned. That is a part of the misfortune of preference share-holders. I think the Select Committee has very wisely acted in arriving at this *via media*.

Sir, when this Bill first came up before the House I expressed my opinion regarding certain difficulties which the electricity supply undertakings may have in implementing these provisions. I have not appended any note on that subject, because I am inclined to think that in view of clause 5, care would be taken to implement these provisions.

I think that on the whole this is a wise and statesmanlike settlement and so far as future preference shareholders are concerned, they are bound to be on their guard. In the payment of the price they will take this factor into consideration that the refund which they used to get prior to grossing up will not be available. I hope the House will accept the Bill as amended by the Select Committee.

श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा (निमाड़) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रिफरेंस शेयर डिविडेंड सम्बन्धी जो ज्वायेंट कमेटी की रिपोर्ट पेश की गई, उस में मैं भी एक सदस्य था और इसलिये उस के समर्थन में बोलने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूं। जब मैं ने इस मामले को देखा तो मुझे एक बड़ा दिलचस्प किस्सा याद आ गया। हमारे यहां देहातों में कहा करते है "मुनारी लड़ाई"। यानी यह कि किस तरह पैसे वालों में लड़ाई होती है और फिर किस तरह वह आपस में ही निपट जाती है। इस बिल के बारे में ज्वायेंट कमेटी में जो समझौता हुआ उस का किस्सा बड़ा दिलचस्प है। जहां तक डिविडेंड आन शेअर्स का मामला है एक तो आर्डिनरी शेअर होता है जिस को कम्पनी ऐक्ट के अनुसार डिविडेंड प्राप्त होता है और दूसरा प्रिफरेंस शेअर होता है जिस को डिविडेंड कम्पनी और शेअर होल्डर्स दोनों के ऐग्रिमेंट से प्राप्त होता है। आर्डिनरी शेअर तो एक मामूली आदमी भी प्राप्त कर सकता है सौदे में, अगर उसे मौका मिल जाय, लेकिन जहां तक प्रिफरेंस शेअर का सवाल है, यह पैसे वालों के बीच का मामला है। जिस के पास ज्यादा धन होता है जैसे कारपोरेशन वगैरह हैं, ट्रस्ट्स वगैरह हैं, उसी को वह प्राप्त होता है और वही प्राप्त कर सकता है। जब सन् १९५९ का नया टैक्सेशन लागू हुआ, उस वक्त जो उन को डिविडेंड के तौर पर टोटल रकम मिलती थी, उस में काफी रिडक्शन हुआ। उस रिडक्शन के होने के कारण उन्हें असन्तोष होना एक तरह से स्वाभाविक सा था। गवर्नमेंट ने उस पर विचार किया और वह बिल के रूप में उसे लाई। जब यह मामला ज्वायेंट कमेटी में था तो आपसी एग्रिमेंट से बहुत आसानी से हल हुआ, इसलिये इस में हमें हर्ष होना चाहिये। इसलिये मुझे इस मामले में कुछ ज्यादा कहना नहीं है। मुझे इतना ही कहना है कि यह बात जरूर है कि कुछ शेयरहोल्डर्स को लास है। उनकी शिकायत हो सकती है कि इस एग्रीमेंट के बावजूद भी उनको जो रकम १९५९ के पहले मिलती थी उससे कम रकम अवश्य मिलेगी। लेकिन नये टैक्सेशन के हिसाब से एक साधारण जनता को भी थोड़ा बहुत सहन करना पड़ा है, तो इस मामले में प्रिफरेंस शेयर होल्डर्स के प्रति कोई ज्यादा सख्ती नहीं कही जा सकती। चूंकि यह मामला आपसी समझौते से निपट गया है इसलिये मुझे ज्यादा कुछ नहीं कहना है। मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूं।

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is my misfortune to differ from this Bill in its essentials and fundamentals. I do not understand why the equity shareholders, who have to bear all the burden of entrepreneurship should take a great risk as being equity shareholders and why they are being given a deal which is different from that of the preference shareholders. The preference shareholders are assured of a net return, whether the company makes any profit or not, whether the company goes to dogs or not, whether it has any production or not, they are assured of their dividends.

Shri Morarka (Jhunjhunu): Not if the company goes to dogs.

Shri Mahanty: I said so in a figurative sense. What I was venturing to submit was that if the company does not go to dogs, but if the company does not make any profit—any worthwhile profit—then the preference shareholders are entitled to their pound of flesh. But in the case of equity shareholders, they may get nothing and almost in most cases the equity shareholders are going high and dry. Therefore, I would like to know the position. Of course, the hon. Minister, while moving the motion for consideration, did not clarify many issues, and so, we would like to k now whether in the Select Committee this aspect of the question was gone into.

Today, those who are distantly acquainted with the pattern of investment in this country have noticed a trend that mostly preference shares are being invested not by innocent widows to whom Shri Naushir Bharucha made a reference, but this port-

[Shri Mahanty]

folio is being invested by resourceful trusts. These trusts certainly are not trusts owned by widows. The trusts are owned by men who have got their capital to be invested and that too in a safe way without incurring any risk. Therefore, it is my misfortune that I have not been able to see eye to eye with the scheme as has been enunciated in this Bill.

Then there is another aspect. Before this measure came in, we know that seven per cent was the assured quantum of dividend, and it all depended mostly on agreement between the parties concerned. Suppose I am in need of investment and if I can find out a preference shareholder, on whatever terms can be found convenient to us, we would come to a mutual agreement. I do not see really any justice as to why the Government thought it fit to step in here, between the two parties.

Suppose X is desirous of, say, expanding his plant, and he requires a crore of rupees, and for that if he does not get the amount in the shape of equity capital, he can get preference shares, and this kind of capital investment was left in the hands of, or between, two private parties who could come to any working arrangement and strike a deal, and in most cases it was found convenient to both the parties concerned to do so. Nobody has told us as to what impelled this Government to step into this sector, so to say, and come here with an enunciation which really neither does justice to the equity shareholders nor to the parties concerned.

Then again, this has brought about a sort of discrimination between the equity shareholders and the preference shareholders. Of course, it is well known that when we say that a person is a preference shareholder certain preferences are attached to him. It is obvious. If I am a preference shareholder, certain preference is attached to me. It is as clear as daylight. It is true. But you have to take into consideration the other factors also. What are you going to do about equity shareholders, who are mostly men who are not of flamboyant economic means but only ordinary men, the common people? They do not invest in preference shares, but they invest in equity shares, of small denominations, and in most of the cases, as the company law administration report would show, most of these companies have played ducks and drakes with the shareholders' moneys, while the equity shareholders who are really bearing all the brunt of the entrepreneurship and who are really taking a risk are left high and dry. I do not see any reason why the preference shareholders have been given this preferential treatment.

These are some of the doubts which have implelled me to voice my differences from this Bill and I would be grateful indeed if the hon. Minister could throw some light on these points.

Shri Morarka: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was little surprised to hear the speech of the hon. Member who just preceded me. He asked a question as to why the Government was obliged to step in here. Unfortunately, the hon. Member was not present at the time when the motion for referring the Bill to the Select Committee was being discussed in this House. At that time, the Government, as well as some of us who took part in the debate, pointed out why the Bill became necessary. Sir, when the new scheme of company taxation was introduced, the Government abolished what was known as the system of grossing, and instead of that, the Government reduced the company taxation from about 56 per cent to 45 per cent. When they reduced the company taxation, they hoped that the benefit of this 11 or 11½ per cent would be passed on to the shareholders, both equity and preference, in whatever proportion it may be. It was expected that the shareholders would not stand to suffer. Unfortunately, what happened actually was that when the new scheme came into

operation, this benefit of 11½ per cent which the company saved was not passed on to the preference shareholders. Some companies passed it on, but many companies did not do so. So, the expectation of the Government was belied.

At that time, the Government had no other alternative but to bring forward a measure by which the Government could compel the companies to increase the dividends on preference shares. As I said, at that time, before this new scheme of company taxation came, the preference shareholders who had seven per cent tax-free preference shares, used to get Rs. 7 in cash plus Rs. 3·22 by way of credit from the Government's tax authorities. After the new scheme came, they got only Rs. 7. That means they suffer a loss of Rs. 3·22 by way of their income on the total of Rs. 10·22. Therefore, while they suffered this big loss, the Government, after considering the various aspects, came to the conclusion that some relief at least should be given.

In the original Bill, the relief proposed was 25 per cent, which the Select Committee thought was not quite adequate, and so they raised it to 30 per cent. I am sorry that the hon. Member who put the question about this and posed this problem has gone away. It was more for his benefit that I am giving the reply and meeting his point.

Shri Khadilkar (Ahmednagar): We are also enlightened.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is secure again to argue it! While the preference shareholders have suffered much more than what this Bill gives them, the Bill tries to do substantial justice to alleviate their hardship.

The hon. Member wanted to know why there should be discriminatory treatment between equity and preference shareholders. So for as equity shareholders are concerned, there is no limit on the dividend at all. The Directors who are elected by the equity shareholders can give whatever dividend they choose out of the profits available to the equity shareholders, whereas they cannot do whatever they like to the equity preference shareholders. They have to give only what is stated in the contract with them. In 1956 when the Companies Act was passed, we deprived the preference shareholders of the voting rights. This was a second blow delivered to the preference shareholders.

There is another point also. If a company prospers, the equity shareholders not only get more dividend, but their capital value also rises. The quotations of the stock exchanges will show that in many companies whose paid-up capital was Rs. 100 per share, the shares are quoted today even at Rs. 1,000 per share and more, whereas in the case of preference shares, they are quoted Rs. 85 per share. So, the preference shareholders have not only lost their voting rights, but they have lost in their income and also in the capital. These were the considerations which made the Government to bring this Bill.

Government waited enough for the companies to remedy the situation themselves on a voluntary basis. But because majority of the companies did not do it, the Government was obliged to bring this Bill. Hence, there was not only justification, but a full necessity for this Bill. The Select Committee has done well in amending this Bill by raising this compulsory limit, which is a relief to the preference shareholders. I feel, therefore, there cannot be two opinions on this Bill. It should have a smooth sailing and have the unanimous support of the House.

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: As in the Select Committee, here also the Government did not take any sides. We left it to the Members of the Select Committee to decide the issue, because the Government was not concerned either way—the preference shareholders or equity shareholders. The

[Dr. B. Gopala Reddi]

objection raised by the hon. Member from Orissa was amply rebutted by Shri Morarka, and I need not go into the merits of the question.

Having accepted the principle of removing grossing, as early as March, 1959, this is only a consequential measure. Shri Bharucha does not accept that grossing should be done away with. But having accepted it as early as March, 1959, it is inevitable that the scales should be held even between equity shareholders and preference shareholders.

As Shri Morarka said, the previous taxation was 56·5 per cent on companies and it has been reduced to 45 per cent. So, the 11·5 per cent of profits need not necessarily go to the equity shareholders. The preference shareholders also have a claim. In his budget speech, the Finance Minister said, "We are watching the situation and we expect the companies themselves would do some justice to the preference shareholders". We have to step in at this stage, because we found that most of the companies, though they were willing to give an addition to the preference shareholders, could not do it, because of the provisions of the Companies Act and the difficulty of getting the resolution passed by the general body. Sir, Government thought that it should help those companies who are willing to give more to the preference shareholders by providing for a compulsory minimum. If they want to give more, certainly they are welcome to do it. There are ample provisions for that in the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Therefore, I might repeat for the sake of the hon. Member who has come in again....

Shri Mahanty: What is the meaning in his saying "who has come in again"?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member had gone out.

Shri Mahanty: I had gone for a glass of water.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That water was needed just at the time when his questions were being answered.

Shri Mahanty: On a point of order, Sir. When it is imputed that a Member has come in again, it is suggested thereby that the Member comes in and goes out as he pleases, without taking into account the fact that there may be other compelling reasons for the Member to go to the lobby. I beg of you kindly to consider this. I do not mind the hon. Minister having a dig, but it should not be at my cost.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think there is any reason to be displeased with these observations. Of course, every Member is free to go out and come in as he pleases. There is no harm in that, though compelling reasons can only be disclosed if the Member chooses to do it. Now that he has done it, we all agree with him that that was a compelling reason. But the only difficulty was that it came up just at the moment when his questions were being answered.

Shri Mahanty: I am unfortunate.

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: I was saying that since the company taxation has been reduced from 56·5 to 45 per cent, the difference need not necessarily go only to the equity shareholders. The preference shareholders also must get something in addition to the stipulated dividend.

I am glad that the entire House is giving its seal of approval to this Bill....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Again the hon. Minister is ignoring the hon. Member.

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: His point has been amply met and I think he has withdrawn his objections. Since the report was made to the House, there was no adverse comment in the Press or from any quarter. Even some

letters that we have received welcome the decision of the Select Committee. I am happy the Committee gave a unanimous report. There was no question of any minute of dissent. Shri Bharucha and Shri Masani took a leading part in the Select Committee deliberations and their viewpoints were fully met by the Committee. I commend the report of the Select Committee to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to regulate dividends on preference shares of certain companies, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are no amendments to the clauses.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 7, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 7, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as reported by the Select Committeee, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as reported by the Select Committeee, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.59 hrs.

MOTOR TRANSPORT WORKERS BILL

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the welfare of motor transport workers and to regulate the conditions of their work, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Hon. Members must have gone through the report of the Joint Commitee placed on the Table of the House on the 5th December. I would briefly refer to some of the more important changes made by the committee. The original Bill did not provide for any target date for enforcement. It has now been recommended that the new law should come into force in all States by 31st December, 1961. Its scope has also been widened considerably. It would now cover every motor transport undertaking employing 5 or more workers instead of 10 or more, as originally provided. The State Governments have also been given power to apply it to such undertakings employing even less than five workers.

15 hrs.

Originally, there was provision for classification of motor transport services into three distinct classes, namely, city services, long distance passenger service and long distance freight service. This classification has been done away with and uniform hours of work and spread-over have now been prescribed for all classes of services.

Daily and weekly hours of rest have been fixed at 8 and 48 respectively, while the spread-over is not to exceed 12 hours in a day. As regards split duty, the number of spells of duty have now been reduced from 3 to 2.

For effective enforcement of law the powers of the inspectors have been enlarged to enable them to stop a vehicle and seize documents etc., if necessary.

Another modification made by the Committee relates to exemption. Power has been given to State Governments to exempt supervisory and managerial staff and also part-time workers from the provisions of this enactment. They will, however, have to send to the Central Government an advanced

[Shri Abid Ali]

copy of the modifications granting such exemption.

A large number of memoranda and representations were received from employers' and workers' organisations and also quite a few of their representatives appeared before the committee to give evidence. All that was taken into consideration and on that basis a report has been submitted. To begin with, a large number of amendments were proposed but, during the course of the discussions, the differences were considerably narrowed down and the report which has been placed here is, fortunately, almost unanimous. Sir, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to provide for the welfare of motor transport workers and to regulate the conditions of their work, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri Braj Raj Singh.

श्री बजराज सिंह (फिरोजाबाद) उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, ...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He might continue his speech the next day, as we have to take up the next item now.

15.02 hrs.

MOTIONS *RE*: PUBLICATION ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motions moved by Shri Harish Chandra Mathur on 13th December, 1960, namely:—

(i) "That this House takes note of the Publication on the Public Sector Industries, laid on the Table of the House on the 9th March, 1960."

(ii) "That the question of placing public sector undertakings on sound basis in regard to their forms, organisation, parliamentary control and the financial principles which should govern them, be taken into consideration."

Shri Mahanty. There will be a time-limit on speeches.

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at least in one aspect the public sector has overdone the private sector, and that is in its hyper-sensitiveness. The public sector is today so hyper-sensitive that if anybody voices any criticism, however constructive it may be, the attitude is "don't touch me" or "those who are not with me are against me". That seems to be the mental equation in the mind of the public sector. Therefore, I am a little hesitant to offer my views and comments on the functioning of our public sector and I hope and believe it will not be misunderstood.

Now, according to me, the public sector is not a socialist luxury. It has got a role to play and it has got an objective to fulfil. According to me there are two criteria which are important in considering the working of public sector undertakings, and they are, No. 1, its contribution to our Plan resources and, No. 2 its attitude, its behaviour, its demeanour as an ideal employer in the country.

Coming to its contribution to our Plan resources, during the Second Plan I believe all our thousands of crores of investment must have brought us a paltry sum of Rs. 4 crores or 5 crores. I believe that is the figure, because no figures have been given to us. Coming to the Third Plan, Sir, the draft outline has mentioned that the public sector's contrition is about Rs. 440 crores, out of which Rs. 140 crores will be contri-

buted by the public sector under the State Governments. At the moment we are not concerned with the public sector run by the State Government; also, neither have we any materials before us, nor have the Government any materials before them.

I also come from a State where there are one or two public sector undertakings in the State sector. I can tell you that if you are banking on, at least from my State, some sizable contribution to our Plan resources, and if that has been taken credit of in this Rs. 140 crores, then you are in for a very big disappointment in respect of this estimate. What are the returns of the electricity undertakings? We know that the electricity undertakings, according to the report of the Taxation Enquiry Commission, have not been giving any satisfactory divided at all, etc. I am not going into that aspect, because we are not concerned with that at the moment.

Now the public sector undertakings of the Government of India have to contribute Rs. 300 crores. With all humility, let me mention that this a highly, what should I say, hypothetical estimate. Here we are dealing with a set of imponderables. It may be Rs. 300 crores or it may be even Rs. 30 crores. Since there are no objective basis to come to any calculation as to the quantum of contribution of our public sector undertakings to the Plan resources, it pains me to mention that there is scope enough and it is time enough that Government pay some attention to the functioning of this public sector in a streamlined manner.

That brings us to the most fundamental question, namely, price policy. I beg to submit that these Rs. 300 crores, or whatever it may be, has to be achieved through a price policy. As I said, let us put the figure at X, because it is dependent upon a set of imponderables; nobody can say whether it is Rs. 300 crores or 600 crores or even 3 crores. So, let us put it at X. That has got to be achieved through a price policy. We would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the public sector today has any price policy. I say the answer is an emphatic "No". For instance, if you take Hindustan Steel, it is well known that we are having all the non-metallurgical coal, metallurgical coal, all good quality ores and cheap labour. Yet, the steel that we are producing in this country is the costliest in the world. Japan is imposing our iron ore. I find the hon. Minister is nodding his head in disapproval, but though a layman let me tell him that Japan today is importing our iron ore, paying all the freight for shipping. Still, I beg to submit that Japanese steel is cheaper than Indian steel. It is because the public sector today has no price policy. If there is no price policy, why, if I were the Commerce Minister, I could have fetched Rs. 3,000 crores. I can sell the steel of Hindustan Steel for a fantastic sum, I can sell a ton of aluminium for a fantastic sum or I can sell a phial of anti-biotic for a fantastic sum and I can provide Rs. 3,000 crores. Therefore, it is time enough we consider not only our resources but we rationalise the price policy.

Then I come to labour relations. I have said earlier that the public sector should in its demeanour and in its attitude behave like an ideal employer in this country. Again coming to Hindustan Steel—the hon. Minister of Steel is not here, but the House knows that—only till the other day the Rourkela steel plant was insulated against all kinds of labour laws. They claim a privilege. They do not want to be equated with the private sector regarding labour relations. Therefore what we find is that in the name of public sector there is a kind of mulcting and profiteering at the cost of the consumers and so far as the labourers are concerned they are only being given a raw deal.

Now I come to the most important aspect, namely, parliamentary control.

[Shri Mahanty]

The House will bear with me when I say without meaning any disrespect to this august House that our responsibility is vicarious, illusory and notional and our Rules of Procedure and the Business Advisory Committee so function as to make this notional parliamentary control much more notional. For instance, take the case of steel. We have invested Rs. 300 crores in it. It is an empire. How many hours does this House get to discuss steel? It hardly gets three hours, out of which the hon Minister, of course, always takes away 1½ hours. Therefore I say in all seriousness that unless parliamentary control is made more effective, unless it is streamlined....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If it is the desire, I could give the whole time to hon. Members and no opportunity to the hon. Minister.

Shri Mahanty: The hon. Ministers should get as much time as they like, but the House should get ample time to discuss the issues.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Questions are asked by every hon. Member who stands up and if they are to be answered, the hon. Minister must have ample time for that.

Shri Mahanty: I have never questioned his right. I am pleading only for my own right, namely, that we should get more time if we are going to make parliamentary control really effective.

But that apart, in U.K. it has been said about this public sector where a sort of reticence is observed by Parliament concerning the public sector, namely,—

> "Whereas parliamentary control is more theoretical than actual, ministerial control is in practice more real than is publicly admitted."

Then it goes on to say:

> "By refraining from exercise of their directorial powers over the Board and preferring to influence them through consultation, they (the Ministers) escape responsibility."

Why I have mentioned this is to bring before the House a problem. Today what do we find? We find, as of course you know, that the Question Hour is always crowded with questions and one must be really very lucky if his question concerning the public sector does come up for an answer. Hardly you reach your own question. Then here you have a colossus, namely, the hon. Minister who has been running empires. Fantastic sums of Rs. 300 crores, Rs. 400 crores he has got in his pockets. Now the hon. Minister. . .

Shri Goray (Poona): His pockets must be very large!

Shri Mahanty: The hon. Minister under some statute has got the power....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member further allege that he walks away with that pocket?

Shri Mahanty: That pocket is always safe with us.

What I was venturing to submit was that here is an hon. Minister who can issue directions. To whom can he issue directions? He can issue directions to the Chairman, to the Managing Director and to the Board of Directors. At that level the hon. Minister, though he is of course theoretically answerable to the House, practically he is not, because of the peculiar functioning of the Parliament.

In the second place what I find is this. The President appoints the Chairman and the Board of Directors. I hope the hon. Minister kindly listens to it. Here is the President who has to nominate the Chairman. He has to nominate the Managing Director and the Directors. We cannot question that. We cannot question the

President's choice. That will be ruled out of order. We cannot question it in a court of law. Therefore today we find a sad spectacle of our public sector being staffed with retired officers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri Mahanty: How many minutes have passed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: 15 minutes.

Shri Mahanty: In two or three minutes I conclude.

We find a retired Secretary-General of the External Affairs Ministry on the Sindri Fertiliser Board of Directors. I found him on the Board of the Western Shipping Corporation too. I found him in a number of units. I found him wherever my eyes could project. So we find that on account of these limitations you are staffing this public sector with all the retired officials drawn from your departments.

Since I have not got any further time at my disposal, I will conclude only by saying that according to the Congress Party's recommendation the Chairman will be appointed by the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is carrying on another Parliament there.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member desires that he should be listened to attentively and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. . .

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): We are just trying to consult so that the hon. Minister may answer his question correctly.

Shri Mahanty: According to Congress Party's recommendation the Chairman will be nominated by the Minister, the Directors will bs whole-time technical men drawn from that particular unit and the hon. Minister will have overriding powers over the Chairman and, the Chairman has been empowered to override any recommendations, suggestions or whatever emanates from the Board of Directors. Therefore, if the Congress Party's recommendations are accepted, in a nutshell the public sector is reduced to a department of the Government over which the Parliament has got illusory control. Therefore while we welcome the public sector, while concluding I only urge that it should have a pricing policy, it should not be at the cost of the consumer, it should be streamlined, it should be business-like and it should not function as a department of the Government minus efficiency and accountability.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Khadilkar. I find there are very many hon. Members who want to speak.

Shri Khadilkar (Ahmednagar): I will not take more than 15 minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I rather wanted to request him to have only ten minutes.

Shri Khadilkar: We will compromise on 12 or 13 minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I accept the compromise, but after him there will be only 10 minutes to each hon. Member.

Shri Khadilkar: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, only yesterday I was glancing through a book published by Mr. Gunnar Myrdal, a well-known economist and a friendly critic of Indian Plans, where he has described our planning as functioning anarchy. The hon. Minister will please take note of it. I do not know whether that remark is justified, when we look at the whole planning as such because I have had no time to examine it. But so far as the public sector is concerned I feel that if I were to follow him and describe it as functioning anarchy, I would be perfectly justified, if we look at the present

[Shri Khadilkar]

pattern of organisation, the contribution, financing or parliamentary control. But the more important aspect of it is that we are developing a public sector within the framework of a mixed economy where private enterprise is still having a very, very powerful sway. Whatever my hon. friend, Shri Somani, might say, even today the private sector has a whip hand on the situation in our economy. Taking that factor into consideration I expect that at least some planning effort will be made as regards organisation, financing, price policy, accountability and not the least important though last, namely, the workers' representation, on the boards of management. Because, they have a vital interest in the development of these public interprises.

What do we find here? We have different types of organisations. There are corporations, there are companies and the departmental enterprises. Yesterday figures were given. Regarding the public companies, our Auditor General has observed—that remark also I came across today—that the forming of these companies for public sector purposes is a fraud on the Constitution and a fraud on the Company law. This has been very approvingly quoted by one of the Swiss authors while discussing public enterprises. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what type of organisation is suited in the given context of the situation so that it will be amenable to some form of control, criticism and direction to this House. That aspect must be very thoroughly considered.

There is another aspect. For instance, there are some concerns like Tata Locomotives wherein public funds are invested. Their reports have not been made available to this House for criticism. Why it is so, I do not know. Apart from ammunition factories, Posts, Railways and other national undertakings I do not know why the reports of the Port Trusts in which large sums are invested and which are commercial concerns to a large extent, or the Reserve Bank or the State Bank are not placed before this House and kept open for discussion. I request the Minister to throw some light on this.

So far as the financing is concerned, I gather that there was some discussion in the Estimates Committee and that some recommendation has been made to the effect that a part of the finances of the public sector companies or corporations should be thrown open to the public—some 25 per cent of the capital. I learn that even the Planning Commission is of the same view. What has happened to that recommendation? Because, that recommendation has emanated from a desire to have some sort of a check within the organisation itself. If the shareholders are vigilant and if shares are thrown open to the public, it will give you more finances for these projects and at the same time, some vigilance will be exercised by some of the shareholders if they have a hold in it. I want to know from the hon. Minister what he proposes to do regarding this suggestion.

The question of price policy was mentioned. That is very important. In the public sector, the time has come when, the price policy will have to be laid down from various angles, in relation to the total economy in a mixed economy. Yesterday, reference was made to the Hindustan Antibiotics. The hon. Minister knows that I know something about that concern. We have got a report wherein more than Rs. 80 lakhs have been shown as profits. While presenting such reports, care will have to be taken to see whether these are really production profits or monopoly profits. Because, in the Hindustan Antibiotics, for instance, some distinction ought to have been made. Some profits are due to monopoly, because they are allowed to import a certain product and sell it or distribute it and therefore, they are making profits. A part

of the profits may be due to production. I want some light to be thrown on this point why such a distinction is not made in presenting annual reports, because production profit is legitimately a profit on the investment and of the joint effort of the management and labour and capital put together. So far as monopoly profits are concerned, they must be shown separately. That would give a clear picture of our public sector enterprises, whether it is Hindustan Antibiotics or any other.

The question of price is also there. Yesterday, an hon. friend suggested that antibiotics ought to be sold almost at cost price on the basis of no profit, no loss. My experience is, if a vial of antibiotics is sold at 8 annas—now it is sold for 8 annas or 10 annas—the doctor giving the injection charges Rs. 3 or Rs. 5. Really, the cost of the medicine is almost insignificant. Therefore, while adopting a particular price policy, you will have to consider: how far it will really benefit the consumer. That must be taken into consideration. Just I refer to this because I know what is happening there.

Another important factor is this. In these public undertakings, we find that the labour laws which lay down certain conditions for labour—generally the labour conditions are not bad; I am not saying that—are not observed. Some of the public undertakings think they are immune from them. That is wrong. Moreover, I would like to urge that in such concerns, certain representation should be given to labour on the Boards. Yesterday, the hon. Member Shri Morarka referred to one aspect of the Boards. He pointed out that some ex-officials are having 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 boards under their control. We were so long accusing capitalists for monopolising Board membership. Some of them are in 50 companies, some in 90 companies. I do not know why the public sector should find difficulty in getting the right type of people to serve on the boards.

There is another aspect also. There are various types of concerns, scientific types, engineering types, various other types. Their boards are usually crowded with ex-civil servants or ex-scientists serving somewhere. Nobody is responsible except perhaps the managing director. Nobody is a full-time man. When you look from close quarters, our experience is that the attention that should be paid to scientific development, to production, to quality by the Board is not being given. They are just concerned in taking whatever the fees and T.A. plus getting some relations pushed up in the company in their employment. This is my experience. Therefore, I would also request the hon. Minister to say what type of board membership he visualises. Because, I for one feel that in our economy, with all the criticism, whether it is functioning anarchy at the present moment or not, we will have to give great thought for planning the public sector on business lines. It is a national undertaking. With the expansion of it, we can perhaps control to some extent the over-powering influence of the private sector in a mixed economy. Therefore I would appeal to the hon. Minister to say, taking this friendly criticism of a world renowned economist, whether he is prepared to do something to remove the prevailing functioning anarchy in the public sector, and make it properly accountable to this Parliament.

One more word and I shall finish.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He began with anarchy and he has ended with anarchy. Now, he should finish.

Shri Khadilkar: Last year, when the L.I.C. was discussed, I suggested that there should be some sort of a Vigilance committee. That matter was under discussion. In France, there is a Vigilance Committee to look after the public undertakings. Some sort of a committee must be immediately set up because, after all, you cannot debate all aspects of

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public undertakings on the floor of the House. With these words, I conclude.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal (Uluberia): I welcome this discussion on the public sector undertakings.

I have welcomed the expansion of the public sector all along, and even at the present moment, I do welcome it for various obvious reasons. But the main idea behind this full-fledged support to the public sector was two-fold. Firstly, we wanted that all the key and defence industries and also the factories and industries manufacturing consumer goods should be taken over by Government. By taking over the defence industries, Government can have full control over defence production, and by taking over industries which manufacture consumer goods, Government can have full control over the economic pattern of the common people. Secondly, the profit that will be earned will go to the State coffers, thus enabling Government to spend more for the development of the country. But what I find today is that none of these two purposes has succeeded.

In the public sector, Government have monopolised some industries, but the people are not getting any benefit in the shape of cheaper prices; on the other hand, it has helped only the bureaucrats and the capitalists of our country.

The expansion, growth and utility of an industry depend mainly on three things: commercial outlook in financial matters, trained personnel both for management and for work, and also sound trade union relations. These three things contribute to the prosperity of an undertaking, whether private or public.

Commercial outlook means the way in which the private sector runs their organisation. But, to our utter surprise, we find that in most of the public undertakings, there has been too much of overhead expenses, as has already been pointed out by the previous speakers. Unless the administration is streamlined and the red-tape procedure is discarded, there is no possibility of reducing these overhead expenses. Moreover, the red tape procedure breeds corruption and favouritism.

In most of the public undertakings, there is no costing, and if there is costing, it has got no relation to the cost of production.

Loss and wastage do not only tarnish the good name of the factory or the undertakings, but also drag the undertaking into a losing concern. When the profit is eaten away, the administration drives hard to increase the profits by raising the prices of the commodities that are manufactured by the undertakings, the brunt of which is ultimately borne by the consumers at large. So, although the profit made is of great importance, still, the profit that could have been made, if these useless expenses and wastage could have been avoided, is also equally important.

Moreover, as these public sector undertaking are out of the control of Parliament, the whims of the bosses play an important part in the administration. I could give one instance. The purchase unit of the Rourkela Steel Plant has been shifted thrice in three years from Rourkela to Calcutta and from Calcutta to Rourkela in the Tughlaki fashion. In 1957, it was transferred from Calcutta to Rourkela, through objected to by the then Chief Controller of the Purchase Unit, and after two years, it had to be shifted from Rourkela to Calcutta; again, they have decided to shift it from Calcutta to Rourkela, although the authorities place 75 per cent of their orders worth about Rs. 25 lakhs per month on the factories near about Calcutta.

Regarding trained personnel, I would submit that in the managerial section, I do not object to the appointment of anyone who has got adequate experience in the matter of administration. But I do not admit that the I.C.S. men because they are I.C.S. men can manage the affairs quite well. I was surprised to see that one I.C.S. officer, who was the Secretary to the Food and Agriculture Ministry became within one year the Secretary to the Atomic Energy Commission, and the next year, he became the general manager of a power project.

Some hon. Members suggested yesterday that young capitalists may be taken in.

An Hon. Member: Like Shri Morarka.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: They are expected to have more experience, no doubt, but there is a danger also.

We are told that for several years, no foundry had been opened by the H.M.T., as one of the Members of the Board was the owner of a factory which used to supply castings to H.M.T. at a high rate.

Regarding trained personnel for the factories, the problem has been more acute, due to the low wages and salaries fixed by these undertakings. In the Heavy Electricals at Bhopal, last year, about 40 per cent of the jobs of highly skilled workers were vacant. Of course, now, they may be expanding their own training system, but that is not a sufficient solution.

The Hindustan Prototype Machine-Tools of Ambarnath complained that in spite of their own training institute, they are not able to utilise their services, because on the completion of the training course, they are won over by the private sector who offer higher wages and who pay also in advance to the trainees the whole amount that has to be paid to the factory by the trainees for their courses. In the H.M.T., there is provision for giving training, but it is no costly that it is not possible for the ordinary workers to receive training there.

Regarding trade union relations in public undertakings, I must say that they are not very happy. There is no uniform standing order and the service conditions of different units even under the same administration differ from each other. For example, in the Hindustan Steel, the grades and scales of salary and other allowances of the semi-skilled, and skilled operatives, trade apprentices etc. are not identical in all the units. The passed trade-apprentices of the Rourkela Steel Plant are given lower pay than those of Bhilai. The operatives of the Durgapur plant are given lower pay than those of Rourkela. The employees of the Security Department of Durgapur plant are the worst sufferers. Not only are the rates of pay the lowest, but they are treated also inhumanly. Therefore, standardisation of jobs and emoluments should be made in these public undertakings.

The attitude towards the representative trade unions also vanes from undertaking to undertaking. In the I.T.I., for instance, the union is recognised, and the Works Committee is functioning satisfactorily, whereas in H.M.T., the representative union has been de-recognised and the Works Committee has been made ineffective.

Thirdly, the employment exchanges are not properly utilised for recruiting the workers; on the contrary, the workers are recruited on the basis of favouritism by the management. Neither the system of attendance bonus nor the system of *ad hoc ex-gratia* payment has yet been introduced, though this has been recommended by the Projects Co-ordination Committee.

Regarding co-ordination in different Ministries in the Central and State spheres, it is not yet very effective.

[Shri Aurobindo Ghosal]

About a year ago, when I saw some new lathe machines of foreign make in some of the defence establishments, I asked them why they did not purchase the same from H.M.T. They gave different pleas and said that H.M.T. did not give effective guarantee, nor did they supply spare parts etc. The I.T.I. wanted us to recommend their road signals, but the Bombay Government and the West Bengal Government have purchased the road signals from outside importers. I do not know if the co-ordination between the different Ministries has been brought about in the meantime.

Lastly, regarding parliamentary control, I must say that we have got no effective control. When we put any questions, we are confronted with the reply that we might ask the question directly of the authorities concerned, because they are statutory bodies. But when we write letters to them, they do not give any reply.

Therefore, I say in conclusion, that in spite of the success achieved by the H.M.T. and the Hindustan Antibiotics, we must not forget that the General Managers of Durgapur and Rourkela had to retire because of inward cliques, the production of the Sindri factory is falling, the Coal Development Corporation is failing to reach its targets, the Steel factories are losing production owing to short supply of coal and so on. So, Parliament must have effective control over these undertakings, which, being autonomous, have attained the status or the privilege of 'The-King-can-do-no-wrong.'.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman (Kumbakonam): Today, we have 50 statutory corporations, and there are as many as 45 Government companies and 17 departmental undertakings. I might list one or two in each category for the sake of elucidation. For example, the Air India International, the Bombay Port Trust, The D.V.C. and the State Bank of India will come under the first category of statutory corporations. The Ashoka Hotels, the Neyveli Lignite Corporation, the Heavy Electricals, and the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. will come under the second category.

Shri Mahanty: They are all in the public sector.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Also Praga Tools, Western Shipping Corporation and others—a whole lot of them—come under that. Thirdly, we have got the Nasik Security Press and the Integral Coach Factory. These are two examples of the third category. So we can have a complete picture of the nature of what are called public undertakings, to which reference was made frequently by the Estimates Committee. I will only say this, that the Estimates Committee in their last Report, in April, 1960, have stated:

> "While it is most desirable to have all public undertakings conform to a common pattern or patterns, both from the point of view of efficient administration and of accountability to Parliament, the Committee feel that some individual variations are inevitable due to the special characteristics and functions of a particular undertaking. But such deviations should not, however, affect basically the overall pattern of organisation and responsibility. It is, therefore, desirable to lay down a framework of such overall pattern".

Having said this, with your leave, I shall refer to something which is rather personal. Some reference was made to Members of Parliament being on these undertakings. I had the good fortune to be associated with the Neyveli Lignite Corporation as chairman for nearly over a year in 1958-59. I was more or less a wall flower there. Most of the work was done by the very efficient men working there. At that time, the mining scheme took a leap forward and the thermal power

station which was initiated with the collaboration of Technoexport in Russia was seen through; the briquetting and carbonisation scheme was pushed through; the clay washing scheme was pushed through . . .

Shri Sampath (Namakkal): It is now shelved.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The mining scheme and fertiliser plant. That was why I took good care to state this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let his statement be pushed through.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: They are just functioning today. My hon. friends were wondering when I was talking of Neyveli. Perhaps they would be interested to know that West Germany which was simply flattened out after the last war owes its prosperity to lignite and lignite alone, or mostly to lignite. Our lignite is superior to the lignite of West Germany.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): Rajasthan lignite is superior to Neyveli lignite.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: May be. It is a tragedy that just when we are likely to harvest and get the effects, so much criticism should be made. It is but proper that there must be criticism. Nothing should be kept back from Parliament. It will be a sad day when any hole-and-corner methods are adopted. Everything should see the light of day. There must be criticism, but what I was saying was that it is rather tragic that there must be so much of criticism, not only about the management but also about the entire system. I heard Shri Jaipal Singh yesterday pleading for the Adivasis. I agree with him completely. If they are dispossessed and thrown out from their places, they must be rehabilitated. But then from that, he jumped to the other conclusion that the public sector is an anathema and that the private sector was the thing to be fought for.

So far as Members of Parliament being associated with these undertakings are concerned, it also happens that having severed my connection with Neyveli, thanks to you and the hon. Speaker, I have become the Chairman of the Committee on Offices of Profit which deals with Members' disqualification by reason of their holding certain offices of profit. It is a sort of contrast from the earlier position.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I had not known of it even.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: As you know, under the old Act, there are only two disqualifications. So far as Members of Parliament are concerned, the Secretaryship and Chairmanship of certain corporations are taboo for them.

Shri Mahanty: Members of Parliament are not a public sector.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I am referring to association. My hon. friend has been absenting himself; otherwise, he would have known that there was a lot of criticism about Members of Parliament being there. Shri Joachim Alva and others were referring to the practice in England and the Menon Committee Report. All this happened yesterday. I am answering that criticism.

We are now going to suggest a third category which will be considered by Members of Parliament, that is to say, where there is complete taboo so far as Members of Parliament are concerned.

Nearly Rs. 2,000 crores are invested in these undertakings, and effectively today it is Rs. 200 crores so far as the full-swing companies are concerned. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur mentioned the figure of Rs. 177 crores or so. He also said that the returns

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available were less than Rs. 4 crores or Rs. 5 crores so far as these companies are concerned. Company law, except in cases where it has been specifically exempted from application, applies to these companies *proprio vigore*. This is really important. It is not as though they can escape the requirements of company law.

Then so far as the personnel is concerned, there is an attempt made to gather a pool of efficient managers. I said yesterday, and I repeat now, we want people like Shri Morarka, young businessmen who will take it as a service of dedication for the nation. They must be able to come away from their highly paid jobs to serve these companies for three, four or five years. There are many young businessmen who can do this, and I am sure the Minister will entertain applications from all these young businessmen.

Shri Mahanty: On a point of order. This kind of wielding influence on Members of Parliament inside the House by asking them to come and join the board of directors is, I am afraid, going to vitiate the freedom of parliamentary deliberations. If it is an offence outside Parliament, it should be more so inside Parliament. What is this business of inviting Members to join the board of directors?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is only an invitation. If hon. Members are so susceptible to such influence even when speeches are made about that, perhaps there is no hope for us.

Shri Mahanty: He is the Chairman of that Committee which is presenting that Report.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I am grateful to you. There is neither point nor order in that.

Therefore, the management pool must grow up. I do say that there is a lot of objection about one thing. I am rather unhappy, I must tell the Minister, the fact that retired people are put in charge of not only one company but a number of companies. Many of them just come, attend the meetings and go away. It is costing us a lot of air fare. I do not think that is going to be a very efficient way of doing things so far as the administration is concerned. I do not want to give you the break-up of figures so far as the connections of some of these retired men are concerned. But there are retired people, even servicemen, who are there on 16 and 17 companies. It is just like the old system of chain group of companies. I do not know whether they even know the number of companies with which they are connected. That is the whole tragedy.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Their PAs know it.

Shri Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): They do not know the dates of the meetings.

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): To clear up a misunderstanding, let me say that there is not a single person, official or retired, who is on 16 or 17 companies. Generally, a maximum of not more than 3 is allowed per person and that too in some cases only.

Shri Morarka (Jhunjhunu): There are 17 members who are directors of more than 4 companies and three or four of them are at least on 8 or 9 companies.

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is just a different way of saying the same thing.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: It is just possible that the figures might have been mixed up with regard to 17. But there are certainly more than 3. Even 3 is bad enough. These are mammoth companies. If you take Neyveli, it is of the order of Rs. 75—80 crores.

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is also an exception. It is not that all have more than 3.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: In fact, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that I am one of those who is going to say that everything is all right with these companies. The only answer to all this public criticism will be this. In a backward country with a huge population, you either have the system which obtains in certain countries, that is, State capitalism or Communism, or you must have more and more of these public undertakings in a Welfare State such as ours. There is no other alternative.

Look at our imposing record. In steel, we are doing very well. As regards penicillin, I am not going to tire the House with figures. But look at the excellent work done at Pimpri. We would not have had the drug available at the present price otherwise. If doctors are charging a lot for the injection, it is not the fault of the penicillin. The excess goes to the pockets of the doctors. But really the price of the drug has been brought down. To say in a left-handed manner that there is sediment and all that is not proper. If that is so, each single package can be located and you can catch hold of those responsible for the fall in standard. So far as quality is concerned, we have to see that the highest standard is maintained with regards to these drugs.

Similarly, our Machine Tools. The record is excellent. To say, why should you want Machine Tool Factories; why not get fine machine tools imported from abroad; the steel is not good enough and they won't last long, all this is a sort of criticism which is hitting behind the back. Really, we will have to supply the whole Far East with all machine tools, not only India. We have a tremendous market so far as machine tools are concerned. I wish all power to the elbow of the hon. Minister and his undertakings in particular.

Similarly is the case of cables. Our record has been excellent. Having said that, I want to repeat that there have been some unnecessary criticisms about the services. Yesterday, there were sme observations that they should be recruited through the U.P.S.C. You cannot have U.P.S.C. for them. There are two or three distinguished businessmen in this House. Just imagine, if their business is to be put to shell firing in the House and they have to face all sorts of questions when reports are discussed, whether they would be able to show one-tenth of the profits that they are able to show. Can they face such a barrage of questions that are being asked here? Yet these public undertakings have faced all this. It is amazing, how they have not only survived but they are growing from strength to strength. I do not think any businessman in India can show one per cent. of his profits if he has to face the same amount of criticism that these public undertakings are facing. To this extent, their record has been excellent. Now, when the harvest time is starting it would be the unkindest cut of all to criticise them and hit them below the belt....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member must conclude now.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I will take only one minute more, Sir.

An Hon. Member: Where is the belt? (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That one minute should not be lost in this manner.

An Hon. Member: What is hitting below the belt?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Sir, I do not know to what kind of political thinking my hon. friend there belongs; but he certainly does not belong to the order....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is now losing that one minute. (*Interruptions*).

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: But, if he is really supporting the public sector and Welfare State, then that is an end of the matter.

I only want to say that whenever you have a big industry like this growing up, it not only means that that industry itself is flourishing and employing a number of people, it not only means that that particular State is benefiting but there are also so many linked up industries which are coming along with that. We have the clay washing industries and others coming around Neyveli. I have no doubt that the House will give the best support possible to these undertakings.

श्री ब्रजराज सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जिस सैक्टर पर हम दो हजार करोड़ रुपये लगा चुके हैं, उस पर विचार करने के लिए इस संसद् में कितना समय मिलता है, यह देख कर हैरानी होती है । हम और दूसरे विषयों के लिए बहुत समय निकाल लेते हैं, लेकिन दुख है कि सरकार की तरफ़ से यह प्रयत्न नहीं किया जाता है कि जिस सैक्टर में हमारे करोड़ों रुपये लगे हुए हैं, उस पर बहस कराने के लिए वह अपनी तरफ़ से पहल करे । मैं चाहूंगा कि भविष्य में सरकार यह प्रयत्न करे कि पब्लिक सैक्टर की सब कार्पोरेशन्ज और अन्य इंडस्ट्रीज की रिपोर्टों पर वह अपनी तरफ़ से बहस कराये और इस तरह से पार्लियामेंट को इस विषय में अधिकाधिक दिलचस्पी लेने का मौका दे ।

जिसे पब्लिक सैक्टर कहा जाता है, मैं सिद्धान्त रूप से उसका समर्थक हूं और उस के विकास और प्रगति का मैं स्वागत करता हूं । अगर उस को सही ढंग से चलाया जाये, तो वह समाजवाद की स्थापना की तरफ़ एक कदम होगा । लेकिन यह दुख की बात है कि पब्लिक सैक्टर न हो कर वह गवर्नमेंट सैक्टर हो गया है । हम पब्लिक सैक्टर का नाम लेते हैं, लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में आज जो कुछ हो रहा है, उस को तो सरकारी सैक्टर ही कहा जा सकता है—उस में पब्लिक सैक्टर की बात कतई नहीं है । पब्लिक सैक्टर की कार्पोरेशन्ज और अंडरटेकिंग्ज को हम एक के बाद एक देख जायें, तो हम को पता लगेगा कि उन पर अधिकाधिक कंट्रोल गवर्नमेंट का है, गवर्नमेंट का अपना ढांचा वहां काम करता है और जनता के कंट्रोल और दिलचस्पी लेने की बात उस में नहीं है । इसलिए अच्छा होगा कि जिस को पब्लिक सैक्टर कहा जाता है, उस को गवर्नमेंट सैक्टर न रहने दे कर सही अर्थों में पब्लिक सैक्टर बनाने का अधिकाधिक प्रयत्न किया जाये । लेकिन हमें लगता है कि उस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति के लिए कोई प्रयत्न नहीं किया जा रहा है, जिस की ओर एक से अधिक वक्ताओं ने इस सदन में संकेत किया है अर्थात् यह कि उस पर इस पार्लिमेंट का अधिकाधिक कंट्रोल हो । जब कांग्रेस पार्टी की कमेटी यह कहती है कि उस पर पार्लिमेंट का अधिक कंट्रोल होना चाहिए, तो फिर यह समझ में नहीं आता है कि किन दिक्कतों और किन मुसीबतों की वजह से गवर्नमेंट उस पर पार्लिमेंट का अधिकाधिक कंट्रोल रखने में अपने आप को असमर्थ पा रही है । मैं चाहूंगा कि जल्दी से जल्दी पार्लिमेंट की एक स्टैंडिंग कमेटी तो बना ही दी जाये, जो कि पब्लिक सैक्टर के सब उद्योगों की देख-भाल कर सके और उस को अधिक कंट्रोल कर के उसे सही मायनों में पब्लिक सैक्टर बना सके ।

इस समय इस विषय में जो अमल हो रहा है, अगर हम उस पर जायें, तो हम देखेंगे कि कई इंडस्ट्रीज ऐसी हैं, जो अपने में एक अलग साम्राज्य बन गई हैं । उदाहरण के लिए हम लोहे के उद्योग को ले लें । हम ने लोहे के कारखाने पब्लिक सैक्टर में खोल रखे हैं, जो कि अपने में अलग अलग साम्राज्य हैं और वे इस तरह के साम्राज्य हैं कि कारखाने के अन्दर जाने के लिए परमिट की जरूरत होती है । उस के बगैर कोई उन के अन्दर नहीं जा

सकता है । मैं यह बात जिम्मेदारी के साथ कह रहा हूं । पिछले दिनों उड़ीसा की विधान सभा के सदस्य, श्री नारायण साहू, हिन्दुस्तान के एक प्रमुख आदमी—डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया—को ले कर राउरकेला देखने के लिये गये । इस के लिए उन्हें दो दिन इन्तजार करना पड़ा, लेकिन फिर भी उन्हें इजाजत नहीं दी गई । मेरी समझ में यह बात नहीं आती है कि जब हिन्दुस्तान का कोई नागरिक—और वह भी ऐसा वैसा आदमी नहीं, विधान सभा का सदस्य और हिन्दुस्तान का एक प्रमुख आदमी—पब्लिक सैक्टर की किसी इंडस्ट्री को देखना चाहता है—क्योंकि यह कहा जाता है कि ये नये मन्दिर बन रहे हैं, जिन के दर्शन करने चाहिएं—तो क्यों उन को दो दिन की इन्तजार के बावजूद इन नये मन्दिरों के दर्शन करने की इजाजत नहीं दी जाती है । मैं समझता हूं कि उस के पीछे एक भावना है । अगर हम राउरकेला के सैटअप को देखें, तो मालूम होगा कि वहां पर एक हजार अफ़सर हैं और तीस हजार मजदूर । अगर हम उन के वेतनों, भत्तों और दूसरी सुविधाओं पर दृष्टिपात करें, तो यह देख कर ताज्जुब होगा कि एक अफ़सर के वेतन, भत्तों और अन्य सुविधाओं पर औसतन सात हजार रुपया माहवार खर्च किया जाता है, जिस का अर्थ यह है कि एक हजार अफ़सरों पर सत्तर लाख रुपये माहवार खर्च होता है । इस के मुकाबले में एक मजदूर के वेतन, भत्तों और सर्विस की अन्य सुविधाओं पर औसतन १०० रुपये माहवार का खर्च होता है अर्थात् तीस हजार मजदूरों पर तीस लाख रुपये माहवार खर्च होता है । मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि ऐसी परिस्थितियों में किस प्रकार कोई उद्योग चल सकेगा, उसकी कोई प्राइस पालिसी—मूल्य नीति— चल सकेगी, किस तरह वह उपभोक्ताओं को अपनी चीज सस्ते दाम पर दे सकेगा, यदि वहां काम करने वालों के मुकाबले में अफ़सरों पर ढाई गुना खर्च किया जायेगा । मुझे अफ़सोस है कि राउरकेला में ऐसा ही हो रहा है । पब्लिक सैक्टर की दूसरी इंडस्ट्रीज में भी अफ़सरों पर जो खर्च किया जाता है, अगर वह वर्कज पर किये जाने वाले खर्च से ज्यादा नहीं है, तो कम से कम वह ऐसा जरूर है, जो उचित नहीं है । उस खर्च को घटाया जा सकता है ।

15.59 hrs.

[SHRI MULCHAND DUBE *in the Chair*]

हम देखते हैं कि पब्लिक सैक्टर में जो नये कार्पोरेशन्ज या कम्पनियां बन रहीं हैं, उन सब में ऐसा ही ढांचा होता है कि कितने ही अफ़सर होते हैं, उनके पर्सनल असिस्टेंट होते हैं, हर एक के पास अलग दफ्तर और टेलीफोन होते हैं, हर एक के लिये एयर-कंडीशनिंग की व्यवस्था होती है, जो कि खर्च को बहुत बढ़ाते हैं । यदि हम इस को वाकई जनता का सैक्टर बनाना चाहते हैं, तो हम को निश्चित करना पड़ेगा कि हम अफ़सरों पर, उन पर, जो कि निरीक्षण का काम करते हैं, और वर्कज पर, उन पर, जो उत्पादन करते हैं, कितना कितना खर्च करें । यदि ऐसा नहीं किया जायेगा, तो हम देखेंगे कि स्टील मिनिस्टर को बार बार कहना पड़ेगा कि अगले कई वर्ष तक स्टील की कीमत नहीं घटाई जा सकेगी । क्या वजह है कि हम एक मानापली की तरह काम कर रहे हैं, हमकों कच्चा माल सस्ता मिलता है और सब चीजें एक ही जगह मिलती हैं, फिर भी हम कीमत को नहीं घटा सकते हैं ? इसकी वजह यह है कि उत्पादन-व्यय बढ़ता जा रहा है । उसको कम करने की जरूरत है । अभी सरकार ने अन्दाजा दिया कि तीसरी पंच-वर्षीय योजना में केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा पब्लिक सैक्टर में चलाई जा रही इंडस्ट्रीज से तीन सौ करोड़ रुपया मिल सकेगा । यह आशा व्यक्त की गयी है कि इस सैक्टर से हमें ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैसा मिले, ताकि हम अपनी योजनाओं को चला सकें, जिससे हम अपनी जनता पर कम

[श्री अजराज सिंह]

टैक्स लगा सकें । लेकिन कोई भी स्पष्ट तस्वीर अभी तक हमारे सामने नहीं आई है कि ३०० करोड़ रुपया किस तरह से मिल सकेगा ।

16 hrs.

उसी के साथ साथ एक दूसरी सिद्धांत की बात आती है । जब तक आप यह तय नहीं करते हैं कि पब्लिक सैक्टर में पैदा की हुई चीज का मूल्य आप क्या रखने जा रहे हैं और मूल्य तय करते वक्त आपका सिद्धांत क्या होगा, तब तक यह कहना कि ३०० करोड़ रुपया मिल सकेगा, या १५० करोड़ रुपया मिल सकेगा या ५० करोड़ रुपया मिल सकेगा या ३० करोड़ रुपया मिल सकेगा, इसके कोई माने नहीं हैं । आपका खर्चा जो है वह एकदम बढ़ता चला जा रहा है । उस पर रोक लगाने की जरूरत है । इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार जिन इंडस्ट्रीज की चला रही है, जिन उद्योगों को खुद चला रही है, उनके लिये यह सिद्धांत तय करे कि कितना रुपया अफसरों पर खर्च होगा, कितना रुपया वर्कर्स जो उत्पादन करते हैं, उन पर खर्च होगा, कितना रुपया आफिस पर खर्च कर सकते हैं और इन सब बातों के साथ साथ किस तरह से इन उत्पादित चीजों के या दूसरी चीजों के मूल्य नाजायज तौर पर न बढ़ाने पायें, इसके बारे में आप सिद्धांत तय नहीं करेंगे तब तक मैं समझता हूं कुछ होने वाला नहीं है । आप कहते हैं कि पब्लिक सैक्टर बढ़ रहा है । बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि वह बढ़ रहा है और हम चाहते हैं कि वह बढ़े । हम नहीं चाहते हैं कि प्राइवेट सैक्टर बढ़े और लोगों का शोषण करे । पब्लिक सैक्टर को बढ़ा कर हम प्राइवेट सैक्टर के शोषण को खत्म करते हैं । मैं मानता हूं कि इस तरह का शोषण नहीं होना चाहिये । लेकिन मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि ऐसा न हो कि पब्लिक सैक्टर प्राइवेट सैक्टर का स्थान ले ले और जो प्राइवेट सैक्टर करता रहा है, जो शोषण जनता का वह करता रहा है, वही शोषण जनता का पब्लिक सैक्टर करने लगे जाये । मुझे लगता है कि आज मुल्क में ऐसी भावना है कि पब्लिक सैक्टर में भी वही बातें की जा रही हैं जो प्राइवेट सैक्टर में की जाती हैं । अगर यह भावना मुल्क में फैलती है तो आप विश्वास करें कि उसका नतीजा यह निकलेगा कि लोगों का ध्यान पब्लिक सैक्टर से हट कर प्राइवेट सैक्टर की तरफ लग जायेगा जो कि लोग नहीं जानते हैं । मैं नहीं समझता कि इस से देश का फायदा हो सकता है । लेकिन जो लोग नहीं चाहते हैं कि पब्लिक सैक्टर उन्नति करे, जो लोग नहीं चाहते हैं कि पब्लिक सैक्टर का विकास होने पाये, वे पूंजीपतियों के अलावा और कोई नहीं हैं । मैं नहीं चाहता कि कोई इस तरह की बात हो । मैं चाहता हूं कि पब्लिक सैक्टर का विकास हो, पब्लिक सैक्टर उन्नति करे लेकिन मैं चाहता हूं कि हर वह काम किया जाये जिससे कि पब्लिक सैक्टर कामयाब हो । आप आज रिटायर्ड आफिसर्स को बोर्डों पर रखे रहे हैं, आप कोई इकोनोमिक सर्विस बाने की कोशिश नहीं कर रहे हैं, आप नवयुवकों को ट्रेनिंग देने की कोशिश नहीं कर रहे हैं , आप कहते हैं कि आगे चल कर इन उद्योगों का विस्तार आप करेंगे , इन का एक्सपैंशन आप करेंगे, लेकिन उस काम को सम्भालने के लिए आप नवयुवक तैयार नहीं कर रहे हैं जो कि बहुत जरूरी है । ये सब बातें हैं जिन की तरफ आपका ध्यान जाना बहुत आवश्यक है ।

इस के साथ ही साथ यह भी मैं चाहता हूं कि पार्लियामेंट का अधिकाधिक कंट्रोल इस सैक्टर पर हो । पार्लियामेंट को पूरा मौका दिया जाना चाहिये कि वह इन पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग्ज पर बहस कर सके । जितना समय पार्लियामेंट को इस समय बहस करने का दिया जाता है वह बहुत ही थोड़ा है । बजट सैशन में आप मिनिस्ट्रीज को डिसकस

करने का काफी मौका देते हैं। उसी तरह से यह भी हो कि जिस सैक्टर में सरकार का दो हजार करोड़ रुपया लगा हुआ है, उसको डिसकस करने के लिए प्रोपोरशनेटली उतना ही अधिक वक्त दिया जाए। जहां पर तीन सौ करोड़ या डेढ़ सौ करोड़ रुपया या पचास करोड़ रुपया लगा हुआ है उस पर बहस करने के लिए तीन घंटे का समय या दो घंटे का समय या आध घंटे का समय ही अब दिया जाता है। इतने थोड़े समय में जो विषय है, उस के साथ न्याय नहीं किया जा सकता है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि इस प्रश्न पर मौलिक दृष्टि से विचार किया जाए और आप कोशिश करें कि जो रुपया आप लगा रहे हैं वह रुपया अच्छी तरह से खर्च हो। अगर अच्छी तरह से खर्च नहीं होता है, तो यह गम्भीर चिन्ता का विषय हो जाता है। हमें चाहिये कि हम पार्लियामेंट को इन को कंट्रोल करने का अधिकाधिक मौका दें। यह कंट्रोल मिनिस्ट्रों तक नहीं रहना चाहिये। पार्लियामेंट को और सारे मुल्क की जनता को यह अधिकार होना चाहिये कि वह देखे कि काम ठीक चल रहा है या नहीं चल रहा है। इस वास्ते मैं समझता हूं कि जब तक आप मौलिक सिद्धात तय नहीं कर देते हैं, मूल्य नीति तय नहीं कर देते हैं, यह तय नहीं कर देते हैं कि वर्कर्स की क्या स्थिति है इन कारखानों में तथा जो दूसरी चीजें हैं उनको तय नहीं कर देते हैं तब तक मैं समझता हूं कि पब्लिक सैक्टर के बारे में लोगों में गलतफहमी पैदा होती रहेगी और पब्लिक सैक्टर के बारे में किसी भी गलतफहमी का पैदा होना इस मुल्क के लिए, इस मुल्क के भविष्य के लिये अच्छा नहीं है।

Shri Warior (Trichur): I shall make only one point.

Mr. Chairman: He will take seven minutes.

Shri Warior: I shall try to finish even within that time. I shall touch only one point—investment by the private individuals in the State corporations. That point has been dealt with by one of the previous speakers, Shri Khadilkar. It is amazing that on the one hand they cry that the State enterprises are not making sufficient profits and this and that and at the same time they say that private individuals should be allowed to invest in the public sector corporations. It is a contradiction in terms. If public enterprises are not showing so much progress, then why all this cry of investing in the public sector? It has caused a great headache to our Ministers and the Planning Commission and the Government is now considering this subject. From reports in the *Statesman* in May last, it appears that a committee is considering not only the question of issuing shares to the public but also how dividends should be paid and so on. Without profits, how could there be dividends? Yesterday, there was so much talk about profit and all these things. As far as I can understand, the real profit of a concern can be seen not from the profit and loss account or the balance sheet but from the trading account. The trading account discloses, what is in common parlance called, the gross profit. But the real outcome of the transactions can be seen from the overall production figures. The administrative expenses are deducted from the gross profits and then we get the net profit. From the net profit, depreciations and other appropriations are made. From the cries of the private investing public, we will have a view as to the way or direction that the public sector is going. There are 101 things which have to be criticised: the departments and those who are responsible for running these undertakings. I went to Rourkela. As soon as there is some rain, the water will come into the quarters. There are such things. There was a mishap in the gas plant. There are so many things going on. We can criticise them. But what is the overall picture? The overall picture is seen by this demand. I am strongly against it. I am strongly

[Shri Warior]

against opening this gate for the public investors to come into the State sector. At one time we are saying that the private sector must co-operate. A sort of a cold war is going on. They say that the public sector is rotten and this and that and that the private sector is everything. The next moment they say: let us have some shares. Why? Why should they ask for some share in the management, some share in the dividend? Why should they ask these shares to be put in the stock market? There is a saying in our language that if you give space for a pin, the pike will be inserted. The next thing will be the pick-axe. This is the same thing.

Shri Khadilkar was saying that this will check inflation. There are a thousand and one ways of checking inflation. A worker there can invest in his co-operative or have some small-scale industries which, if the hon. Minister is somewhat more liberal, can be encouraged. They can put their money in life insurance. The LIC will divert the funds to the public sector. There are so many other things to be done. For instance, the works committees are not there in the public sector. Production committees are not in many of them. Some workers are taken on the managing committees but their work is sabotaged. If the workers in the public sector are able to build co-operatives, we can have more effective cooperatives and much more profit will be coming. I have no doubt that if the public sector goes in the right direction, it will be able to contribute not only Rs. 400 crores but much more. It may go even up to Rs. 1,000 crores. That is what an eminent US expert has said. When we say 'public sector', there is so much of hullabaloo created.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member's time is over.

Shri Warior: You have rung the bell three times. I conclude. I conclude by saying that we must rectify those mistakes, but, at the same time, you must preserve the public sector for the public sector itself.

Mr. Chairman: Shri A. C. Guha. He should finish within five minutes.

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): It is useless if I have to speak only for five minutes. I suggest that the time may be extended by 15 minutes. That would be better. I am one of the movers of this motion.

Mr. Chairman: He may have seven minutes.

Shri A. C. Guha: At least ten minutes. Considering the time available, I should not dilate my points and I shall try to be as brief as possible not to say much about the necessity or usefulness of the public sector.

Many hon. Members have spoken about the different varieties of the pattern prevalent in the public sector. I do not know whether it is possible for the Government even now to arrive at some definite pattern. But there should not be any Commissions or similar bodies which run in the name of autonomous bodies. That should be abolished. I do not find any reason to the objection taken by my hon. friend Shri Harish Chandra Mathur about the company pattern. I think that would be more suited at least from the point of view of Parlimentary control than the corporations. The corporations, after the passing of the Acts, have practically passed out of the control of Parliament. We have the experience of the DVC and other corporations, and I am sorry that I cannot agree with Shri Harish Chandra Mathur in his preference for corporations to company pattern. I should rather say that the company pattern is more suitable for us.

We are not sure as regards the total amount invested in the public sector. I do not like to include the railways, the posts and telegraphs and even the defence industries here. But as regards the other undertakings

which have been started recently, at least there should be an accurate idea given to this House as to what is the total investment in the public sector.

You will be surprised to find that even the Estimates Committee could not get any figures from the Finance Ministry on this matter. The Estimates Committee made an estimate of Rs. 765 crores, and that was sent to the Finance Ministry for factual verification. The Ministry was given about two weeks' time, but it returned those figures without factual verification, saying that it was not possible for them to have factual varification. It is stated that the correctness of the figure was not susceptible of being checked up readily by them. If even the Finance Ministry cannot say what is the amount invested in the public sector in two weeks' time, I am sorry that Parliament is awfully ignorant about the position. I think the Minister should make a clear declaration, if not today, but sometime within this session, as to what is the total investment in what is now known as the public sector excluding the railways, the posts and telegraphs and also the defence industries.

As regards Parliamentary control, as late as 1953, the previous Speaker of this House, Shri Mavalankar, wrote a letter to the Prime Minister asking for the establishment of a special committee and the Krishna Menon Committee appointed by the ruling party also recommended more than a year ago the establishment of a committee. I do not know what is hindering the establishment of a special committee of this House so that the House may get a full picture and have full control over the public sector. There are two Committees now, the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. I think they have a full load and a much bigger load of work than they can possibly carry. So, this third committee which I suggest should not have any overlapping function with the other two committees and it should be on a par with the other two committees. There may be some demarcation that such and such subjects should come under this third committee. This committee will perform both the functions of the Estimates Committee and of the Public Accounts Committee as far as the public sector is concerned. I hope the Minister will make a declaration as soon as possible about the policy of the Government and about the difficulty, if any, in setting up a committee of this House on this matter.

In find that several hon. Members have spoken about the accounting pattern of these reports. I find that accounting is not of a uniform pattern. I should like to draw the attention of the Minister to the varying types of accounting presented in this report published by Cabinet Secretariat. If the hon. Minister will take the care to look into these different items of accounts, given in this report, he will see....

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Without meaning to interrupt the hon. Member, I may point out that what the hon. Member has seen is only the summary or digest for Parliament. If he sees the annual balance-sheet, he will find that it is more or less on a uniform pattern.

Shri A. C. Guha: Even then, I think the digest is culled only from the annual balance-sheet, and the headings and the sub-headings should all be more or less in the same language. But the question is, why there should be so much variation between one industrial unit and another industrial unit as put in the Report. The report should be understandable to laymen, and most Members of Parliament are laymen; they are not industrialists; they are not businessmen. They are merely Members of Parliament, and this report should be understandable to Members of Parliament and should be presented in such a form and such a language.

[Shri A. C. Guha]

I find that in one company, namely the National Industrial Development Corporation, the paid-up capital is only Rs. 10 lakhs, but it has indulged in businesses running into crores of rupees. In one report, I find that it has sanctioned Rs. 14·79 crores to cotton textile and jute industries. Moreover, it has undertaken several other industrial projects by itself. I do not know what is the actual function of this corporation, and how it could get so much money when its own paid-up capital is only Rs. 10 lakhs. Has the corporation raised money by way of loan from the public, from the private concerns or sources, or, has it got large loans from the Government? If the corporation has been allowed to raise loans from the market, then the Government must have guaranteed the loans. There should be an accurate picture given to this House of all such loans guaranteed by the Government.

There is another corporation also, namely, the Industrial Finance Corporation, and most probably the ICIC will also come within the same category more or less. The Government has to guarantee the loans raised by them from the public and any loan guaranteed by the Government either for the public sector industries or for some private industries should also be stated before this House in clear terms and the sanction of this House must also be taken.

About the management, Shri Morarka has mentioned yesterday that some of these directors are in the boards of as many as 17 companies. The Minister today has contradicted.....

Shri Morarka: I did not say that there are 17 companies. I said that 17 Government officers have been taken.

Shri A. C. Guha: I am sorry. 17 of them are directors in as many as 4 companies and some of them are members in eight or nine companies. I think that should be stopped immediately. Socialisation or nationalisation should not be made to mean bureaucratisation. What has now come up is, really all these industries are set up and handed over to the existing officers or officials or retired officials. That should not be the practice. I think nobody should be on the board of more than two companies. That should be the convention and that should be the maximum that can be actually managed by any one man.

I find that in some of these undertakings, the Ministers are chairmen of the boards of directors, and in some, the Secretary of the Ministry or the department concerned is the chairman of the board of directors. This is a bad procedure. The Ministers should not be on any of these boards either as chairmen or in any other capacity. The Ministers should be kept aloof from all these things, so that they may not get entangled in the day-to-day affairs of the company or corporation, whatever it may be. The Minister or the Secretary of the department or ministry concerned should not be at least the chairman, and the Minister should not be on the board of directors.

As for the managing directors, I find that according to the practice of the Government, they are transferred after two or three years.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri A. C. Guha: Two minutes. I should like to mention two cases—the National Coal Development Corporation and the Durgapur Steel Plant. One managing director was sent to Ranchi for the N.C.D.C. and there was rather a common joke roundabout Ranchi that the managing director did not have the idea to distinguish cowdung from coal. That gentleman picked up some experience after two years, but he was transferred and another gentleman has now been appointed.

In Durgapur steel plant, one gentleman from West Bengal, who was perhaps the Secretary of the Agriculture Department, was put as Managing Director. After two or three years, when he might have picked up some experience, he has again been sent back to West Bengal and another gentleman has been brought. This policy of changing them from place to place is not a healthy practice. Of course, one should not be put in a monopolistic position in one post; but he should be transferred to similar other industrial units, so that the experience gained by him should not be lost. They should not be sent back to their original secretarial post. Thus a separate industrial cadre may be built up.

There is a policy that there should be decentralisation of development. The Industrial and economic units of the Government of India should also be more or less decentralised. I strongly protest against the policy of the Government of centralising all the finance bodies in Bombay. That puts a special premium for the development of Bombay to the neglect of other areas, which should not be done. Previously the Reserve Bank and the Imperial Bank—now State Bank—had their offices there and there were also other finance bodies. The practice should not be allowed to continue. If at all these finance bodies should be concentrated in one place, it should be in Delhi, which is the capital and metropolis of India, which does not belong to any particular region.

The LIC should be broken up into four zones so that there may be some healthy competition between different zones. Public sector industries are becoming monopolistic in so many fields like life insurance to some extent banking, steel, heavy chemicals, machine tools, anti-biotic drugs, etc. All these things should not be kept under the monopolistic control of one company and one management. There should be some healthy competition even within Government control.

Yesterday an hon. Member from that side raised certain points about the quality of the drugs manufactured in Pimpri. The Minister must have taken note of that. If necessary he should take the help of the Health Minister and satisfy this House and the country about the quality of the drugs manufactured in Government factories. That is a very important.

About the estimate of Rs. 440 crores for the third Plan, it is rather an optimistic estimate. The second Plan contribution of the public sector industries was negligible. I can understand that the steel plants and some other will go into production. They should give us some idea as to how much they expect from the steel plants and how much from other units. Again Government would be in the position of a monopolistic producer in steel, because the other steel factories also will surrender their production to Government The Government should not make profits at the cost of the consumers' interests. There should be proper cost accounting for all the Government projects.

There should be a definite recruitment policy. I do not suggest it should be through the UPSC. There should be a separate public service commission for the recruitment of the staff for these corporations and public sector industries. Otherwise, they are likely to become the cesspool for nepotism and corruption. I say this with all the responsibility of being a member of the ruling party. Several cases have come before the Estimates Committee and the PAC of a very serious nature. It is high time that the Government appoint a service commission for these corporations.

There should also be a central purchasing committee, so that the stores which may be surplus for one may be utilised for other. In several cases, stores are declared surplus in one

[Shri A. C. Guha]

unit and similar stores are purchased for other units. So, theres hould be a central purchasing committee for effecting co-ordination.

Shri Narasimhan: How many of the public sector undertakings have their costing in all sections done thoroughly by qualified cost accountants? When will the public sector set an example to joint-stock enterprise, so that at some suitable stage, we may statutorily make it obligatory on the part of companies the introduce costing and costing becomes compulsory in the same way as auditing is now compulsory?

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): Does the Government keep in its view the ideal of the socialistic pattern and whatever wealth is produced has to be equally distributed throughout the country? Is that ideal constantly placed before Government in making arrangements for the location of the various public sector factories, public undertakings and other important undertakings? If that is so, I should like to have some detailed explanation, so that the people's doubts may be removed and they may be satisfied.

पंडित मुनीश्वर दत्त उपाध्याय (प्रतापगढ़): सभापति महोदय, मैं थोड़ा सा ही समय लूंगा। मैं देख रहा था कि कल से इस पर बहस चल रही है । राष्ट्र का मार्ग निश्चित हो चुका है एक समाजवादी समाज व्यवस्था बनाने का, और उस में यह आवश्यक है कि हम अपने देश के उद्योगों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करें। लेकिन इन उद्योगों के राष्ट्रीयकरण के करने के साथ ही ये उद्योग कैसे उपयोगी हो सकते हैं, कैसे, देश के सामने एक नमूना बन सकते हैं, कैसे उन का स्थान हमारे देश में स्थायी बन सकता है, ये सब से बड़े प्रश्न हैं जो हमारे सामने आने चाहिएं। मैं ब्यौरे में नहीं जाना चाहता क्योंकि मेरे बहुत से साथी ब्यौरे की बात कर चुके हैं और आपने मुझे समय भी थोड़ा ही दिया है ।

मैं केवल यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यदि हमारी ये संस्थाएं सफल होनी हैं तो उन के सामने कुछ परीक्षा की बातें रहनी चाहिएं। इन परीक्षा की बातों में सब से पहले बात तो यह है कि इन संस्थाओं की जो कार्रवाई चलती है उस से इन को उन उद्योगों के लिए नमूना बनना चाहिए, जिनको कि प्राइवेट लोग चलाते हैं। ऐसा होने पर ही वास्तव में इन संस्थाओं का देश में स्थान बन सकता है । अगर हम ऐसा नहीं कर सकते तो हमको इन से लाभ पहुंचने के बजाए नुकसान पहुंच सकता है । इसलिए मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि इन संस्थाओं में दो चार बातें अवश्य होनी चाहिएं जो कि इस प्रकार के उद्योगों के लिए जरूरी हैं ।

एक बात तो यह है कि जो कारोबार ये संस्थाएं चलाती हैं उस से हम को अधिक से अधिक फायदा होना चाहिये जो कि किसी भी व्यवसाय के लिए आवश्यक हो सकता है । जो थोड़ा बहुत फायदा हो जाता है उस से काम चलने वाला नहीं है । जब हम इन में करोड़ों अरबों रुपया लगाते हैं तो हमको इन से पूरा फायदा मिलना चाहिए । जो कुछ हम ने देखा है वह यह है कि जो फायदा हमको पहुंचना चाहिए व नहीं पहुंच रहा है । कुछ कारोबारों से हमको फायदा पहुंच रहा है, लेकिन जो पचासों कारोबार हमारे हाथ में हैं उन से हम को इतना फायदा नहीं पहुंच रहा है कि ये उद्योग नमूना बन सकें और व्यवसायों के सामने जो कि उन के मुकाबले में आते हैं । जिन उद्योगों को हम ने सरकार का बल दे कर स्थापित किया है यह बल हमेशा चलने वाला नहीं है । इन उद्योगों को व्यवसाय के रूप में सफल होना चाहिए। पहली बात तो यह है ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि हम जितनी पूंजी लगाते हैं अगर उस के अनुसार ही रिटर्न नहीं होता तो भी ये उद्योग चलने वाले नहीं हैं, इनका स्थायित्व नहीं हो सकता । इस वास्ते इस पर हमको ध्यान देना जरूरी है । फिर हम प्राय: हल्ला शोर सुनते हैं चारों तरफ कि जो हमारे काम करने वाले लेबरर्स हैं उनके लिए उपयुक्त प्राविजन नहीं है । यह कमी उद्योग धंधों में बतलाई जाती है । हमारे यहां वह कमी रह जाती है तो हम प्राइवेट उद्योग वालों को कैसे कह सकते हैं कि यह कमी आपके यहां क्यों चल रही है । इसलिए वह सारी फैसलटीज सहूलियतें हमको देनी होंगी । सारा प्रबन्ध हमको करना पड़ेगा ।

आखिरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूं इस सम्बन्ध में वह यह है कि यह हमारी पबलिक का पैसा लगाकर अगर इस तरीके से काम और कारोबार चलाये जायें तो उन कारोबारों को चाहिए कि हमारा जो प्लान चल रहा है, हमारी जो योजना चल रही है उस योजना में इतना धन दे सकें कि जिस से कि जान पड़ कि इन कारोबारों के चलाने का कोई असर हुआ है । अगर हम उसको नहीं दे सकते हैं तो फिर हम सफल नहीं है ।

फिर सब से बड़ा हो हल्ला मचता है कि उनमें करप्शन है और मैं इससे इंकार नहीं करता कि वहां पर करप्शन है । दरअसल जो प्राफिट के लिहाज से महज फायदा उठाने के खयाल से कारोबार चलाये जाते हैं उनमें करप्शन आ सकता है और मैं मानता हूं कि उनमें करप्शन होगा । अब कोई कहे कि करप्शन कहां, कितना है तो अब उसको नाप तौल तो कोई करता नहीं है । बात बिल्कुल सही है और इसवास्ते करप्शन हो सकता है । अब अगर पबलिक अंडरटेकिंग्स में करप्शन आता है तो फिर पबलिक सैक्टर और प्राइवेट सैक्टर में फर्क ही क्या रह गया ? क्या नमूना हम पेश करेंगे ? कैसे हम पबलिक अंडरटेकिंग्स को एक नमूना बना कर चला सकेंगे ?

जहां तक उद्योगों के राष्ट्रीयकरण का सवाल है और नीति का प्रश्न है मैं उसका समर्थक हूं और मैं मानता हूं कि आवश्यक और बड़े उद्योगों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हो जाना चाहिए । इस सम्बन्ध में जो मार्ग चुना गया है उस मार्ग पर हमें चलना चाहिए और हमें इन आवश्यक कारोबारों का राष्ट्रीयकरण कर देना चाहिए । बहुत से ऐसे उपयोगी काम हैं बड़े बड़े धंधे हैं जिनको कि प्राइवेट लोग ठीक से नहीं कर सकते और वह हमारे पबलिक सैक्टर में चल रहे हैं । यह सब ठीक है लेकिन हमें उनके जरिए एक नमूना पेश करना चाहिए । ऐसा तो न हो कि पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर प्रबन्धक हो गए लेकिन किसी को कोई पता नहीं कोई खबर नहीं कोई जानकारी नहीं और कुछ अफसरान कहीं मनमानी करने लगें और उनके ऊपर यह कोई देख रेख और जांच पड़ताल करने वाला कोई नहीं है कि उस उद्योग से फायदा हो रहा है या नहीं हो रहा है । इस वास्ते बड़ी जरूरत इस बात की है कि हमारी पार्लियामेंट सदैव जागरूक रहे कि पबलिक अंडरटेकिंग्स में ठीक से काम हो रहा है या नहीं और यह कि जो एक मिसाल और नमूना हम पेश करना चाहते हैं वह उनके जरिए हम पेश करने में समर्थ हो रहे हैं या नहीं । यह सारी चार, पांच बातें जो मैंने बयान की हैं, इन चारों पांचों के इम्तिहान में जब हमारे पबलिक सैक्टर के उद्योग पास हो जायें तब वाकई हम एक आदर्श और नमूना पेश कर सकेंगे और हमें सफलता मिलेगी और हम आगे बढ़ सकेंगे लेकिन अगर ऐसा हम न कर सके और ठीक से हमारे उद्योग न चल पायें तो फिर यह सैटबैक रहेगा और हमें धक्का लगेगा और हम अपने लक्ष्य में नाकामयाब रहेंगे । हमने अपने लिए एक

[पंडित मुनीश्वर दत्त उपाध्याय]

रास्ता बनाया है । हम देश में एक समाजवादी समाज की स्थापना के हेतु प्रयत्नशील हैं और हमें इसकी सदैव सावधानी बर्तना होगी कि हमें उसके बनाने में कोई धक्का न लगे । इस वास्ते मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि इस पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए और जो लोग इससे सम्बन्धित हैं वे इस पर विशेष ध्यान दें ।

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta (Mahendragarh): Sir, the time may be extended. None has spoken from my State.

Mr. Chairman: After all, there is a limit to the time.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: I gave my name yesterday also. But I was not called.

Mr. Chairman: We have already allotted four hours, and we have to finish by 5 o'clock. I can extend it by 10 or 15 minutes but not up to 6 or 7 o'clock.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Since it is a very important subject, we should also be allowed to express our views.

Mr. Chairman: All right. I will give 5 minutes each to Shri Ram Krishan Gupta and Dr. Melkote. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta.

श्री रामकृष्ण गुप्त : सभापति महोदय, पब्लिक सैक्टर का मामला बहुत अहम है । टाइम बहुत कम है । मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं .....

सभापति महोदय : पांच मिनट के अन्दर माननीय सदस्य अपनी बात समाप्त कर देंगे ।

श्री रामकृष्ण गुप्त : कम से कम दस मिनट का समय तो दिया जाये ।

सभापति महोदय : केवल पांच मिनट आपके पास हैं ।

श्री रामकृष्ण गुप्त : जैसी आज्ञा ।

मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि जब से हमारा देश आजाद हुआ है पब्लिक सैक्टर के तहत जो अंडरटेकिंग्स हैं उनकी तादाद बढ़ रही है । यह इसलिए हो रहा है और मैं समझता हूं कि यह स्वागत योग्य और सही दिशा में कदम है क्योंकि इसी तरह जो हमारा यह निशान है कि हम सोशलिस्टिक पैटर्न आफ सोसाइटी को कायम करें, उसमें कामयाब हों, उसको पा सकते हैं । लेकिन मैं यहां पर यह अवश्य निवेदन करूंगा कि सिर्फ तादाद बढ़ाना ही काफी नहीं है और जब तक उनका इन्तजाम ठीक नहीं होगा जब तक उनके अन्दर काफी मुनाफा नहीं होगा हम इस मामले में कामयाब नहीं हो सकते और जो हमारा मकसद है वह पूरा नहीं होगा । इस बात को मद्देनजर रखते हुए मैं दो, तीन तजवीजें हाउस के सामने रखना चाहता हूं ।

मैं आपको यह भी याद दिलाना चाहता हूं कि यहां पर इस बात का भी जिक्र आया कि जो कांग्रेस पार्टी की तरफ से कमेटी मुकर्रर की गयी थी और जिसके कि चेअरमैन लेट फीरोज गांधी थे उस कमेटी ने जो भी इस मामले में सिफारिशें कीं, बड़े दुःख की बात है कि उन में से किसी एक भी बात को अभी तक नहीं माना गया । उन सिफारिशों में से मैं सिर्फ दो, तीन का जिक्र करना चाहता हूं । पहला सवाल यह है कि एक पार्लियामेंट्री स्टेंडिंग कमेटी मुकर्रर की जाये जो कि इस तमाम मामले की देख भाल करे । इस बात का मेरे से पहले अन्य बहुत से माननीय सदस्यों ने भी जिक्र किया । इसके बारे में मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि जो हमारे स्वर्गवासी स्पीकर महोदय थे उन्होंने भी इस मकसद के लिए प्रधान मंत्री को लेटर लिखा और उस खत में उन तमाम बातों का जिक्र किया था कि ऐसा करना क्यों जरूरी है । मुझे बड़े दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि इसके बावजूद भी इस की तरफ कोई

कदम नहीं उठाया गया क्योंकि आज हम देखते हैं कि पबलिक सैक्टर के बारे में जब भी क्वैश्चन करें, जो भी इन्क्विरी लेना चाहें तो वह क्वैश्चंस इस ग्राउंड पर रिजेक्ट कर दिये जाते हैं कि यह कांस्टीट्यूशनल आटोनमस बौडी है, कारपोरेशन है । आज यह जो आयरन कर्टेन पड़ा हुआ है अगर वाकई हम यह साबित करना चाहते हैं कि यह पबलिक सैक्टर है तो हमें इस आयरन कर्टेन को हटाना पड़ेगा और जो भी उसके मुताल्लिक क्वैश्चंस वगैरह पुट अप किये जायें, उनको स्वीकार किया जाय ।

दूसरे मैं इस तजवीज के भी हक में हूं कि जिस तरीके से बजट पर जनरल बहस होती है उसी तरीके से कम से कम एक हफ्ते या उससे कुछ ज्यादा का समय इसके लिए मुकर्रर होना चाहिए ताकि इन तमाम मामलों पर बहस हो सके और हम यह जान सकें कि पबलिक सैक्टर की क्या हालत है और उसको सुधारने के लिए किन किन बातों की जरूरत है । मैं यह इसलिए नहीं कह रहा कि पबलिक सैक्टर नाकामयाब हो क्योंकि पबलिक सैक्टर अगर नाकामयाब हो गया तो जो हमारा मकसद है वह कभी भी कामयाब नहीं हो सकता । उसकी कामयाबी के लिए जरूरी है कि पार्लियामेंट के सामने तमाम एनफारमेशंस् रक्खी जायें और उसको तमाम बातों से आगाह किया जाये ।

आखिर में मैं दो लफ्ज लेबर वर्किंग क्लास के मुताल्लिक भी कहना चाहता हूं । अगर हम चाहते हैं कि हमारे पबलिक सैक्टर के अन्दर जो कंसर्न्स या अंडरटेकिंग्स हैं वे कामयाब हों तो हमें वर्किंग क्लास को भी विश्वास में लेना पड़ेगा । इसलिए आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि एम्पलायर अपने आप को एक मौडेल एम्पलायर साबित करे । आज मुझे यह देख कर बड़ा दुख होता है और जब मैं यह देखता और सुनता हूं कि पबलिक सैक्टर के अन्दर कई जगह मजदूरों की हालत बहुत खराब है तो मेरा सिर शर्म से झुक जाता है । वहां न तो कोई वर्क्स कमेटी बना हुआ है और न मजदूरों को किसी काम में कौनफिडेंस में लिया जाता है । इसलिए मैं इस बात के लिए भी अपील करूंगा कि अगर हम चाहते हैं कि हमारा पबलिक सैक्टर कामयाब हो तो हमें वर्किंग क्लास को भी विश्वास में लेना पड़ेगा । वहां वर्क्स कमेटी बनाई जायें और मैनेजमेंट के अन्दर उनको एसोशिएट किया जाय । यह एक वाहिद तरीका है जिससे कि हम इसमें कामयाब हो सकते हैं ।

Dr. Melkote (Raichur): Mr. Chairman, this problem of the public sector is a very big one, involving crores and crores of rupees in which the public is very much interested. We are interested because, primarily, there is no personal ownership or absentee ownership here and, secondly, because there is no profit motive behind them, and they are set up only in the interests of the public. Such being the case, their efficiency should be as good as that of any similar industries in the most advanced countries, especially since they have become monopolistic. In that connection what is being said is that the interference of the Ministry is very very great and it should be avoided, and on that these are the few points which, to my mind, are very important, by adopting which their efficiency may be improved.

The directives are given by the Minister or by the Secretariat often times because it is through the Secretariat or the Ministry that those undertakings have got to plan and be financed. The difference between a public company and a public corporation is this, that the directorate there has got a plan because it has got the finances whereas here it is the Ministry that has got to plan and finance, and the directors here are only the executive bodies.

As such unless there is a very good liaison between the ministry and the

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executive, work will not go on smoothly. It is hence that, whatever directives emanate from the ministry, those directives must be laid before the Parliament. There are many complaints that there is a lot of interference. We would like to see what those interferences are like wherein the efficiency of these companies is hampered. That is why all the directives that are issued by the Secretariat or by the Ministry to these corporations must be laid before this House.

With regard to the selection of personnel, the Ministry is not an expert. It has got to draw upon various sources. Therefore the various corporations may send panels of names from which the Ministry may select. Then the executive will be broad-based and the selection may be proper.

With regard to the panels themselves, I personally feel that various committees under these different corporations may be set up with which the different working classes, the technicians etc. are all associated and where their views are taken. Today the conception is that of labour-management relations. The labour should think that they are a part of the State enterprise. The finance has come from every citizen. Therefore increased participation in management by labour should be given to such an extent that he feels that that factory belongs to him. As I said in the beginning, this is no private enterprise; there is no ownership here of any particular individual and it is not worked for a selfish motive. Therefore the public should take interest. If we have got to create the necessary enthusiasm, that interest should dominate. The whole personnel in the factory should feel that they are working for a national interest. That amount of enthusiasm has to be created. If all these things are done, the responsibility that is with the Parliament and the criticism that is levelled by the public companies will be minimum and these companies will work better.

I would have liked to deal with them much more elaborately, but these are some of the points which I wanted to place before the Ministry.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Sir, I am very grateful to the House and to all the hon. Members because nobody welcomes this debate more than the Government. The able way in which the whole House, barring a few feeble voices here and there, have supported the national policy on public sector expansion is extremely heartening. I need not reiterate before the House which is fully aware of the social and economic objectives before this country's Government and the people in expanding the public sector undertakings. We are wedded to build socialism in a country of our magnitude and the great part that the public undertakings play in the building of socialism now is not a matter of any argumentation or dispute. Therefore I was very glad to see that all the sectors and the sections of the House fully supported the social and economic objectives of the rapid expansion of the public sector undertakings.

I may also say so that all the people in this country should fully well know that public sector has come to stay, that it is going to expand from year to year, that it shall expand from Plan to Plan till the poverty of this country is broken down and removed lock, stock and barrel and till India is put on the map of the world as an economically and industrially developed country which can take its place as one of the prosperous countries of the world. Therefore it is very necessary that we should have the fullest support of all sections of the House, of all the thinking people of this country and from all the people of this country to see that with their blessings and with their continuous guidance and vigilance the public sector undertakings, whether they are

industrial, commercial, servicing, banking or financial in nature grow from strength to strength. To that extent I fully welcome from every corner of the House every constructive or otherwise criticism and the blessing that they have given to the general working of the public sector undertakings.

Now the objective is also clear that these big projects which need investment of hundreds of crores of rupees which have a turn-over running into crores of rupees, whether it is banking or insurance, cannot be allowed to be run by a few individuals howsoever competent they may be. It will be easily possible to recognise and appreciate that for an under-developed country like ours where the difference between the rich and the poor, between the few who have the wherewithal and the money and the millions who have not got that, is so much that even if a little less efficiency is there, it will be preferable to run these enterprises on behalf of the community than to allow the exploitation of the millions by a few by handing over to them these gigantic economic instruments of production, wealth and distribution. Therefore let there be no mistake about it. While we are very vigilant and very keen to see that efficiency shall be the criterion in the working of these undertakings, we are not going to budge at all from our desired objective and the cherished goal that all these important, strategic, vital and basic instruments of production shall be largely owned and managed by the community, that is, the Government and its various ramifications for the general and overall good of the whole nation and of every section of the society.

Then it is also the other way round, if I say negatively speaking. Just as the positive goal is to increase the national wealth, to build socialism, to see that production increases from day to day, the negative aspect is that it avoids concentration of economic power in a few hands. Now it is not possible to imagine that by entrusting or permitting the responsibility to a few individuals for the growth of, let us say, steel, power, machine building ect. could be ever understand by letting a few people run the steel or power industry. I know all the private industrialists in this country very personally. Many people know how intimately I know them. Yet, they are totally incapable of bringing any leadership on the industrial side when it comes to gigantic enterprises like steel plants, heavy electrical plants, oil, power generation etc. If the community is to progress further and further, it is but necessary that the State must give the leadership.

Therefore I will immediately come to the second objective of the public sector undertakings and the policy of the public sector, that is, to provide leadership in industrial and economic field. The first was more of a social objective, that is, to avoid concentration of wealth, to build socialism, to remove the disparity between the rich and the poor. The second goal is really industrial leadership. I feel that in this country the public sector has done far more in providing leadership in the industrial field than in any other sphere.

There are many, many difficult technologies, which no individual can supply. Several times we have approached them, asking them, "Will you be able to set up such a plant? Would you produce heavy electricals? Would you produce a thing like a watch or raw film or a camera?" Many times people wonder why we are undertaking a factory to produce a cheap car or to build a small watch or to produce raw film. The reason is obvious. In under-developed countries, it is not merely that physical resources are lacking, but the leadership at all levels is lacking. It is but right that the Parliament provide the right leadership for ushering in such technologies and scientific development which are beyond the reach of an individual entrepreneur. Venture capital is just not ready to come forward and this is the experience throughout the world.

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My hon. friends might read a lot of literature being published on "The role of Public Sector in under-developed countries." It is very vividly brought out by the authors how in under-developed countries of Asia, Africa and even of Western Europe, it was the State which had to take the leadership to provide the venture capital and venture organisation in order to build new forms of technology and to advance the development of Science and industries.

The third objective is very clear. These are not being merely made in order that a few bureaucrats might rule the roost over the public undertakings. Essentially these undertakings are commercial and they shall be judged by the yardstick of a commercial enterprise. If a public undertaking only because it is run by the Government is to be free from all the commercial norms and morality, there will be an end of enterprise. I agree with my hon. friend who mentioned this. That will be a wrong step, namely, that only because the Government is running to build socialism and in order to provide industrial leadership, these units will have no yardstick and will be run as the bureaucracy or technocracy or any man, whether he is a Minister or an executive authority or a panel of people appointed by the Government, desires, that is, by any yardstick other than commercial. So I must assure the House that every undertaking is being judged and is being tried to be run on a purely commercial principle, namely, that the product must pay for itself, that continuously the cost of production must go down, that the return to the community which has invested such large amounts must be commensurate with the investment that has been made and that it must continuously grow so that not only national production increases but the contribution of the public sector to the national exchequer must be ever expanding and must enable us to build more and more developmental projects out of the returns of these projects.

I will now come to the details after having broadly made the Government's point of view clear on the objective of the public sector projects. There has been a lot of talk about parliamentary control. I am sometimes rather surprised, because I answer the largest number of questions in this House on public undertakings. More than 1000 questions have been asked on public undertakings in a single year and about 20 debates in the two houses have taken place on the individual reports of the corporations. Each corporation has to be judged on its own working. Some may be good, some may be very good, some may be indifferent, some of them may be bad in working. More than 20 debates have taken places in both the Houses and more than 1000 questions, starred and unstarred have been put by various hon. Members to our great advantage. I know questions are a very great probe. Some may feel uncomfortable. But, we do not feel so. We feel that we owe it as a duty to the House. When something goes wrong, many times we have been put right by the timely questions of several hon. Members. But, I am saying the other way round. While we welcome it, it will not be correct to believe, because somebody quoted anarchy—he began with anarchy and ended with anarchy—that it is so. There is no anarchy in the public sector undertakings. We are watchful all the time. Eternal vigilance is the price of democracy and no Government believes in that more than the present Government, for eternal vigilance in the performance of the public sector projects. Whenever a smallest detail has come to us even from outside the Parliament, written by an hon. Member or any member of the public throughout India, whenever any letter is written to a Joint Secretary or a Minister or the Prime Minister, immediately an enquiry is set in motion. Sometimes I shudder, when I was working in the private sector, if so many people were questioning my authority as a manager or technical director of a concern, what I would have done. I must confess, here, that the managers in the public sector have

withstood the extraordinary scrutiny both of the public of India and hon. Members of both the Houses more than any managers would have stood in the private sector. I can tell you from my personal experience, we who are sitting in the Boards of directors, we who are working as floor managers, were never questioned by our shareholders or the Board of directors or any outside authority as we are rightly questioned here, and we welcome it. But, it should not be made a grievance that we have got less parliamentary control in this country than anywhere else. I may say most humbly that compared with British Government,—the United States is no model for the public sector organisation—and even the U.S.A., there is no democratic country where you have such control as here. I am not taking of a totalitarian country where everything is closed and my hon. friends who might have any grievance about it, have no other forum except to say that all is well in God's world there. But, in the democratic concept of society, I do not think any parliamentary forum provides as much freedom, as many opportunities, as much discussion of these questions as we do here.

Even so, we have appointed a committe at the party level. It is wrong to believe, as some friends have assumed, that we have given up consideration of that report. It is a very valuable report. It is being considered by the Planning Commission. It is going to be considered by the Cabinet and certain decisions are going to be taken, not only on that report, but on various aspects that are raised by the Estimates Committee and others which are being considered here and which are continuously before the Government from time to time. Therefore, any method or a committee of any type which the hon. Speaker and the Members of Parliament decide as the proper forum to examine more thoroughly the working of the public sector undertakings will be most welcome to the Government. What the form of that committee should be, whether it should be a standing committee separately, whether it should be another type of Public Accounts Committee, whether it should have functions like the Estimates Committee is a matter for consideration. There are different forms in different parts of the world. I would not hasten any conclusion as to what type of form ultimately it will take. But, we do welcome that a group of Members of Parliament, chosen as every other Committee by both the Houses, may well study, superintend and supervise the working of these undertakings from year to year and we will be wiser by their experience. Certainly such an incisive method of examination will be more conducive to the harmonious and healthy growth of the public sector. It will not be correct, as some friends might have suggested not knowing the progress of the work on the recommendations of these committees from day to day, to assume in this case that we are considering them. I have placed in the last two months several answers to questions about the progress of processing the recommendations of this committee and the recommendations of the Estimates Committee.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: How many questions were disallowed?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I do not know of disallowance. I know how many I have answered. I do not know how many were disallowed.

An. Hon. Member: It is for the Speaker.

Shri Manubhai Shah: What were allowed were sufficient to have a full probe and knowledge that the Menon Committee's recommendations and the Estimates Committee's recommendations are fully in progress and we are going to take very considerable decisions of importance on these committees' reports and other studies and recommendations that are going on.

Some Members were feeling that sufficient time is not given to the debate of these reports. I have already mentioned that, practically on the motion of hon. Members, sometimes on the motion of a Minister, the House debates the annual reports of these

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corporations. It is quite good if more time is given by the hon. the Speaker and the Business Advisory Committee of the House for debating more reports.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I may say, you always oppose it.

Shri Manubhai Shah: My hon. friend, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is as keen and all of us are extremely keen that as much time as we could devote out of the entire working hours should be given to this.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Practically two motions every week.

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have myself replied to so many debates. We are prepared even now to give whatever time we can spare out of the 200 or 170 working days of Parliament, dividing the working hours among the various items of work. But, I would urge this. The more important things should be given more importance. If some Member or Members make a study and give us suggestions even outside the forum of this House, it will be most welcome. Because, after all, each enterprise has a peculiarity of its own. It is not as if you can generalise the working of a banking concern with the working of a coal mining depot, you cannot generalise steel production with watch production or a car project. According to the dimension of each project, sufficient time should be devoted and sufficient attention should be devoted. Any suggestions from the Members of this House would be most welcome to the Government. Because, they are, after all, the guardians of the public interests and we shall all be very happy to be guided by them.

There can be various other forms of parliamentary control. It is not necessary, as my hon. friend Shri Naushir Bharucha said, that there should be a law governing all the public sector projects. I think nothing could be more suicidal than one general law under which these 15 corporations, 45 companies and 17 categories of departmental working concerns would come. These are not 17 units i.e. Categories. Ordnance factories come as one unit. That is one category.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): I did not say one general law for all the undertakings. What I said was that there should be a law which codifies the financial principle on which the undertakings are to work.

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have worked in finance for many years. No law could codify all the financial principles of the different categories of public sector projects. A banking company cannot be codified with a Steel company or a mineral oil exploration company cannot be codified with a chemical organic intermediate factory. Therefore, what I would urge is this.

Whenever a new service comes before the House, it is being voted upon. There have been debates whenever we have come for more money and additional provisions in the Budget or with a supplementary Budget or a special grant. Many opportunities are being provided. I would invite the co-operation of Members whosoever is interested in one or 15 or 20 enterprises to make a definite studied approach to the problem. That would help us to know the weaknesses of the public sector and we would also be in a position to inform the House how the public undertakings are working. I personally believe that is the view of the Government that there has been sufficient parliamentary control in this country. It can be more codified, it can be improved, and enlarged by further experience as we go along. But, it will be a wrong impression to give to the country, as might emanate from some of the speeches, that there is anachy. There is complete co-ordination. There has been a committee working in my Ministry where members of other Ministries are invited. For the last 4 years, this committee is working and we are trying to bring in harmony and co-ordination as loosely

as possible in this committee in the diverse types of economic instruments and to bring about some evolution and Common policy making in the working of the public sector undertakings.

A point was made about forms of management. Some Members thought that the corporation form of management by which each undertaking is established through a statute is the best form. Some friends felt that departmental working is better than a corporation. Some others held that a company form of administration is the best. From our experience, we believe that there is enough room for all the three types of management. There are certain corporations which are handling enormous finances with a small equity. Take the State Bank of India or the Life Insurance Corporation or the Reserve Bank of India. They cannot be governed except by a statutory corporation. Because, they have not got the normal functions of an industrial or a commercial enterprise. Therefore, it is best in the wisdom of Parliament that we establish them through proper statutes with proper vigilance and sentinel type of clauses and safeguards incorporated in those statutes. But, by and large, we have come to believe that the company form of management is the best because there is a company law which is constantly before the House. In the light of the experience of the whole economic vista of this country, we are continuously improving upon that company's Act, and it provides for all the safeguards which a commercial undertaking must be given, and the scrutiny which it must be subjected to. I can assure the House that no public undertaking, excepting the departmental companies is free from any provisions of the company law, unless specifically so provided under a statute by the decision and vote of the House. Therefore, really speaking, we are subject to a double control. Since I have been handling the public sector, I know how first we are having a chartered accountant who audits our accounts just like those of any private sector company, then, over and above that, there is the Comptroller and Auditor-General who has an independent audit of his own, and thirdly, we are also keeping a pre-running-audit in order to be sure that what we produce is not muck, that what we produce is not at high prices and that what we produce is economic and of high quality.

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Therefore, among the forms of management, on the whole, the company form has yielded sufficiently good results, and if my hon. friends would study some of the annual balance-sheets, I am quite sure it will be very profitable to them and also to Government. But I can assure you that there is sufficient room for improvement in these reports. We are not satisfied with the reports as they are presented to the House, because we are evolving. If you see last year's report and also this year's report, you will find that this year's report is better than that of last year. We want to make it as informative as possible. We are not going to compare ourselves with the private sector in this respect, because Caesar's wife must be above suspicion, and these are all Government projects which are being financed from the huge taxation resources of the country, where the money belongs to the people of India. Therefore, we want to see that every pie is accounted for before this august House properly, and also before the people of this country. Therefore, we want to make the reports as informative as possible.

Here, I would invite the co-operation of the Members of the House that if they can make their suggestions they would be welcome. They may study for instance, the manuscript report of the Hindustan Anti-biotics or the Hindustan Steels or the Hindustan Shipyards or the State Bank of India, for example, and if they can say that these are the items on which if information is supplied it will be valuable to them or valuable from the

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country's point of view, then we shall welcome such suggestions. I invite all the thinkers of this country, all the intellectuals, all the economists and businessmen that if they can tell us how the reports could be improved, what more information can be given, how and in what manner the presentation can be improved and so on, then, none will be happier to incorporate those suggestions than we in the Government, because, we believe that a very well presented report not only creates a good flavour for that particular enterprise but for this mighty experiment of public sector undertaking. I think India is the only country in the whole of Asia and Africa, in the whole of the underdeveloped world, which has launched upon such gigantic proportions of public sector undertakings. Therefore, I assure the House that we are doing all we can to make these reports more and more informative.

Then, regarding these two publications which are more like gists or digests of hundreds of reports which are being presented by the different corporations, here also, the idea was one of giving in simple layman's language what the work of these undertakings is. In the other booklet, the idea was to give a statistical evaluation; therefore, the presentation is slightly different in both the cases. There also, we are prepared to improve, and the Cabinet Secretariat and the Central Statistical Organisation are at paints to continuously improve the presentation, and I am quite sure that from year to year the Members will find the reports more and more interesting and more and more cohesive and informative.

Then, a question cropped up about the autonomy of these corporations. If these corporations were not autonomous, and the Ministers were to interfere in their working, or the secretary to Government used to interfere in their working, I can assure you that their efficiency would have been hardly one per cent of whatever efficiency there is in the public sector today. As the Minister in charge of several corporations, I may say that very few files ever come to me; once in a while, sometimes, for some major appointment, which has to go to the Cabinet, carrying salaries above Rs. 3000 or so, some file on policy may come to me. As a matter of fact, my hon. friend Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman has rightly mentioned that while he was the chairman of the board of one of the corporations, he hardly knew from day to day what was happening. I think many other chairmen will have the same experience. Therefore, the largest possible decentralised delegated autonomy today vests in the floor managers and the managers at the top of these corporations rather than in the secretary to Government here, because we are too much overworked here, and we have got a lot of other things to do, and, therefore, we cannot be looking after every appointment that has to be made, what production is going on, what type of work is going on and so on. Of course, so far as the policy is concerned, we are responsible, and we do lay down the policy. But that does not mean interference. After all, we take the policy from you and we transmit that policy to the public undertakings at the floor level. Therefore, autonomy is the objective, but it cannot be overdone. Therefore, we call them semi-autonomous. For, after all, what is meant by full or absolute autonomy? No economist throughout the world has said that any management either at the floor level or at the plant level would be fully autonomous. Therefore, subject to safeguarding the public interests, and safeguarding the overall policy, and the interests of the country, the maximum autonomy today vests in the management. And hon. Members can find it out during their tours to any project and from any talk on the spot with the able managers of those enterprises as to what the type of interference is from which they are suffering, either from the executive or the ministerial ranks either at the Centre or at the State Government level.

Then, the question came up as to what role the civil servant has to play in the management of these companies, what role the Members of Parliament have to play in them, and whether there should be special cadres or not These questions have been debated upon in this House several times, and also considered by Government. It will not be correct to say that the civil servants should be completely ruled out. The ICS or the IAS man is a very able administrator, and he has shown his worth during the last thirteen years after India's Independence how reliable he is, by and large. I am not saying that I should class all of them as extremely good, but my personal experience is that on the whole, they have paid rich dividends to this country, and even in the public sector undertakings, their great experience of administration has come to us very handy and very useful. That does not mean that the technical managers have no place. If you analyse the set-up of any enterprise, whether it be Hindustan Steels, or the Hindustan Shipyard or the Heavy Electricals, barring one or two or three men at the maximum, at the top, nobody is a pure administrator. Most of them are technical men. The chief engineers or the general managers or the managing directors are able administrators or technical men drawn from all ranks, whether they be from the Industrial Management Pool or from the private sector or from among the ranks of the retired railway engineers or various other types of personnel from Government. I can assure you that the number of civil servants or civil administrators, as my hon. freind Shri Harish Chandra Mathur was pleased to mention, is the minimum in these enterprises.

It is true that because we are short of experienced people, we have had to draw upon certain retired officers, and at least we are not very sorry for it. The railways which are one of the biggest public undertakings have come to be of great help to us. There are chief engineers who are retired at the age of 55; they have five or seven years of good life, and with their very great experience, they have been able to help us in building up a whole cadre in various enterprises. Then, there are people from the Defence organisations, who retire at the age of 45 or 48. They do not get too old at 45 or 48. It should be our endeavour to canalise their experience to the benefit of public undertakings. I can assure you that if anybody is a retired man and he is almost reaching the other world, we do not encourage such people at all. We take a person only if he is an able-bodied man, who is very good in his faculties, and alive to his duties, and who can deliver the goods of the public sector undertakings; purely on the grounds of efficiency have we taken such persons.

Shri Thirumala Rao (Kakinada): What has happened to the Industrial Management Pool?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I was coming to that. We selected 200 men, and as far as my information goes, excepting seven or eight or ten boys, all the rest have been absorbed in different public sector undertakings. And even the Industrial Management Pool does not exhaust the needs of leadership at the technical and administrative level in these public sector undertakings.

Take, for instance, the Heavy Electricals at Bhopal. That project is going to engage almost 12,000 to 18,000 skilled and unskilled workers, and it will need not less than about five hundred engineers. In an under-developed country of this size, where engineering colleges have come into being only for the last ten or fifteen years, and where high technology of this type is necessary, if we do draw upon the experience of people who had worked in public services with great efficiency, I do not think there is anything wrong it. I should rather congratulate some of them, the men in the Hindustan Machine-tools, the men in the Hindustan anti-biotics or in the Heavy Electricals. Let anybody judge the performance of the former chair-

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man of the Railway Board, from any standard throughout the world. We are not at all sorry for his being there. On the contrary, we are very grateful that with great dedication and devotion, these civil servants and these technical men drawn from the ranks have been giving the proper case and diligence for the working of these enterprises, either from the point of view of commercial standard or from the point of view of any of purity, financial and administrative. But it is true that these public sector undertakings should not become niche for providing some soft cushions or some soft places for the retired officers or retired servants. I can assure the House that if any such case is brought to our notice, we shall look into it, but I hope there will be none, because, firstly, we are very vigilant; and every appointment carrying a salary of above Rs. 3000 goes to the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet; posts carrying salaries of Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000 are mostly scrutinised at the public Service Commission level or at the topmost selection Committee level.

If there is any mistake—there are thousands of people working in these organisations; it may be that one or two or five or ten cases may be there; we are not free from mistakes; it is a vast organisation of an impersonal nature—if there is any mistake of that nature brought to our notice, we shall be very happy to rectify it.

Shri Mahanty: What about price policy?

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Also Managing Director Sindri Fertiliser.

Shri Manubhai Shah: I am coming to both. I have only touched on management.

As regards Members of Parliament being associated with these undertakings, there are many opinions. This House has debated the matter. I need not go over the whole ground. I would not recall the British practice in this connection, because in a limited way in our country when we are faced with tremendous problems, these public sector undertakings are great grounds of training for public men also. I have learnt a great deal by being associated with some of these public undertakings. As the hon. Deputy-Speaker had remarked earlier, if we are so much gullible and sensitive or susceptible to what a Minister says or what the managers say, by being on the board of directors, it is not a hopeful state of affairs. I see nothing wrong in their being there. In this country, we have to build up leadership at all levels. There are 500 people here and 250 in the other House. They represent the intelligentsia of this country, the common man of this country. If this type of cadre is given an opportunity—I mean some of them—to sit on the board of directors, if they can be trusted to represent the people here, they can be easily trusted to remain there and still be objective and impartial in their criticism. As the House knows, many of my friends who have also been on some of these undertakings have been no less critical by virtue of their having been on the board. But that is a matter of opinion. The House has already taken a decision that certain offices attract disqualification and certain others do not. We request Members to go and work on the latter. I am grateful to those hon. Members of Parliament who have volunteered and accepted our invitation to work in those undertakings. Their qualities of leadership and guidance have been of extreme value as far as public relations and as far as the vigilance and guidance in the working of these enterprises is concerned.

Then the question was raised about the cost of production, cost accounting, sales and price policy. As I said earlier, it is on the basis of the fundamental objectives of socialism, industrial leadership and commercial vir-

tues that these undertakings are being run as essentially commercially undertakings. We have got cost accounting all along the line. It is true that we are short of really trained cost accountants. We do not have a large number of cost accountants yet in this country. That class is growing. To the extent of availability, I can assure my hon. friend, Shri Narasimhan, that we are very conscious of cost accounting. I think any enterprise which is not cost conscious and quality conscious is not an enterprise worth the name and it is better to close down such an enterprise. The public sector enterprises, in this respect, have to be model enterprises. I know that the Hindustan Machine Tools is very cost conscious. The Hindustan Steel has recently brought in a number of accountants. Most of the enterprises in our Ministry and elsewhere are having proper cost accounting, product analysis, analysis of the cost of each item and so on and they are working up the entire cost structure of the product. As a matter of fact, the boards of directors, in some cases I have seen, are very very particular before determining the sale price to see what actually is the cost analysis. After they join up all the elements of cost, they determine the cost of the product.

Shri Mahanty: What is the cost of a ton of steel?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is no other country which has built up three gigantic steel plants in five years. You give us some time and then you will see what those steel plants will be. It is one of the marvels of this under-developed country that in a period of five years, we have built up three gigantic steel plants each with a million ton capacity.

Shri Mahanty: I have no doubt about your capacity. I am asking, since you stated that cost accounting is there, what is cost of a ton of steel?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The House has ample opportunity to discuss the report of Hindustan Steel. There have been several questions on that. What I can say is that these steel plants are really model steel plants. When I went to Moscow and Novokromotosk, Mr. Khrushchev told me that in Bhilai we have brought in the latest type of equipment which is not possible to be seen in any single plant in the Soviet Union. The same is the case with Rourkela. In Rourkela, you have the best technique that the West German technicians can offer in different, diverse enterprises.

This takes time. You must give them certain time to build up, a certain time for maturing and development. After three or four years, you can ask them to deliver the goods. You cannot sow the seed and immediately ask for the fruits to be enjoyed by us. It will and must take some time. What we can say is that the fundamental policy and approach these and is that since the rectitude of conduct expected of the public servants and the technical men is very basically correct, the results are bound to be correct. Somewhere we might go wrong, somewhere some manager might have failed, there might be some weakness in the labour, some technicians might have failed. But we will retrace. We have no shame in that. When we have undertaken such a gigantic venture, we must keep an open mind. One must be free to receive all criticism. We are not hypersensitive, as Shri Mahanty seemed to suggest. We are completely vulnerable and open to all criticism. We welcome this criticism as friendly criticism, especially when you are criticising to really support the public sector. There is nobody here criticising the public sector because he wants to run it down. That stage is gone. Public Sector has come to stay in this country.

The price policy is primarily to reduce the cost of production on the one hand as much as we can, to deliver the goods to the consumer at a price

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almost comparable to the price of the imported commodity, if we can. That is not, of course, the only norm or *Gita vakkya*. But we are trying to work it on the basis of the c.i.f. landed cost, so that the maximum return is available. We do not bother if it is Rs. 20 more. There is no reason to fear that an engineering industry will collapse if the price of steel is more by Rs. 20 per ton or Rs. 50 per ton. If you have the price of Rs. 20 to Rs. 50 more, you can get from each steel plant Rs. 5 crores more every year. After all, we want money, we want resources. One of the important functions of these public sector projects is to give profits. These do not belong to any single person, they belong to all. It is equally shared by all. The resources have to be redeployed for investment.

As I was explanining to the hon. Speaker yesterday, the sum of Rs. 440 crores is a sum which will be surplus as contribution of the public undertakings in the Third Plan to the national exchequer. That is, on the resources side of the Plan, Rs. 440 crores will be available as net surplus in the form of dividends and reserves and other funds to be biult up for each undertaking so that they can finance their own expansion and also give to the national exchequer and budget a certain amount of revenue by dividends.

Shri A. C. Guha: It does not include taxation.

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is outside of taxation. It is after paying tax.

As I said earlier, every public sector undertaking, corporate or company—not the departmental—pays all taxes, all the encumbrances, all the interest and service charges. After that, whatever remains constitutes the profits and reserves. Of course, depreciation is taken away at the first stage. The surplus available will be reserve for expansion and for paying dividends to the people of India who own these enterprises, which will be reflected in the national budget.

As regards these Rs. 440 crores—it is an approximate estimate—about Rs. 140 crores are supposed to come from the State Transport Corporations and the State Government undertakings. Roughly Rs. 300 crores are from the public sector undertakings owned by the Central Government. This is from those undertakings in the corporate form and company form. As I said, this amount of Rs. 440 crores is a very very rough estimate. I must caution the House and the country that this figure has still to be rechecked and recalculated more precisely because data are difficult to get and it is very difficult to anticipate what will be the future of the profit, sale, outturn, cost of production and so on in each of these gigantic expanding industries from year to year. But on a very rough estimate that has been made, a contribution of about Rs. 140 crores is available from the State transport undertakings in the States and other State Government enterprises and about Rs. 300 crores from the Central Government undertakings. It works out to almost 7 per cent return on the total investment, overall, over the capital employed. For individual enterprises, it might work somewhere like 5 per cent, 10 per cent and 12 per cent. But 7 per cent is the representation of the total investment over five years and Rs. 440 crores is the total figure over five years. The investment in the First Plan was Rs. 60 crores in the public sector undertakings. In the Second Plan, it rose to Rs. 750 crores approximately. In the Third Plan, as the House knows, the provision is about Rs. 1550 crores. To that extent, these Rs. 440 crores have been worked out.

I do not think we should lay too much emphasis on this figure, because it has to be properly worked out. Once the figure is worked out, we may

take an opportunity of placing the information before the House from time to time.

Therefore, I was saying that making a profit is not a thing to be ashamed of. At the same time, we do not seek to build any monopolies.

It is wrong to believe that steel is a monopoly. There are two gigantic private sector concerns. We are competing with them, in the open forum. In the pharmaceuticals, there are a dozen companies which are making pharmaceuticals.....

Shri Guha: But the Steel companies surrender their products to the Government.

Shri Manubhai Shah: You know the cost of it. After all the rest of the elements are known. Cost is a question of competition. The sale price is known; you can compare that; the retention price is there; you can compare that in the cost. After all, they are quite capable enough to shout. If you produce something at a higher cost they will make it known to you more than anyone of us can make it known to you. Therefore, there is no real question of monopoly in this. We believe in competition as very healthy in the public sector. That is why in every undertaking there is no exclusiveness. We do believe that in the modern world nationalisation is not a bye-word for socialism. Socialism today along with many other policies is the public sector with the various fiscal, monetary and other types of policies and social policies. Therefore, we do not believe in monopoly. We allow others to play their part.

Even in the Heavy Electricals I have stated in the House several times that once we finish the final shape of these projects we would allow the private sector to put up any type of its own plant. But I know they won't do it. Machine tools is a free line and yet what is the private sector doing in the machine tools? For the machine tools we are going to put up two more factories. One is going to be in Ranchi for heavy machine tools. In spite of our best efforts we find it very difficult. Let us not blame them. I believe the private sector has done wonderful work. But that should not make us oblivious to the inherent weakness of the private industry to venture with capital in an underdeveloped country without industrial leadership in any difficult line. It is not easy for them to go into the very different lines. A wise community like the present Government and Parliament alone can provide such leadership.

I said about contribution to the national resources and the tax liabilities under the company law. I would now come to the labour policy. I must confess that it is not easy to become model employers because labour management is not a matter of laying down a yardstick or laying down some laws. It is principally a question of personal management and human relationship. And, to the extent that society suffers from the lack of human leadership at all levels, we cannot become completely model employers. We do abide by all standards. We have provided the maximum welfare activities. I have seen many private factories. Sindri provides the best facilities. I know what Jamshedpur provides. Anyone can go and see our housing colonies. Please go and see the colonies of the Hindustan Antibiotics; see the housing colonies of the Hindustan Machine Tools. Even the small Nahan Foundry which was completely rotten in the olden days and which was a matter of questioning in this House from day to day, let anybody go and see what Nahan is doing. Let them see what is the relationship there. We are providing the best possible amenities to the extent of our resources can permit, proper welfare activities, provident funds, hospitals, schools and things of that sort. The housing and residential colonies are properly laid out. As a matter of fact, some of the foreign economists have remarked that we age sometimes investing a little too much on our colonies for the workers. But, we are proud of it. Unless and until....

Shri Narasimhan: How do the wages compare?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Wages also are much higher compared to private sector industries. They are much better. For instance, Sindri provides the highest form of wage economy in that part of the country. It provides a model for the whole chemical enterprise in the whole of the eastern part of India. I am not talking of the top managers. There we are lower. The private people can pay Rs. 10,000 per month in the iron and steel sector. We may not be able to pay them more Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 per month. We are grateful to those top men who have sacrificed and who have dedicated themselves at a lower wage. But, as far as the basic wage structure is concerned, we are prepared to stand any comparison with anybody.

Then the Works Committees Practically, every public undertaking has already a Works Committee. It is lack of information to believe that there are no Works Committees. There are Works Committees. But it is true that the Management Councils have not come up. We are sorry for it. We wanted to push the Management Councils as far as we could.....

Shri Muhammed Elias (Howrah): Are there any Work Committees in Rourkela, Durgapur or Bhilai?

Shri Manubhai Shah: They are developmental projects. We have classified the projects into 3 classes.

Shri Barman (Cooch-Behar—Reserved—Sch. Castes): There is no Works Committee in Rourkela.

Shri Manubhai Shah: There are three stages in the public sector or in any enterprise that are being built up here. If you see these, we have classified them, those which are running administrations, running undertakings. There every form of organisation is taking shape. Then, there are those which are still under development which cannot afford all the social experiments, which have no spare time yet to devote to these activities. But we are for it. We shall have Works Committees in every public sector enterprise. If I can say so, we will have Management Councils in every public sector undertaking. That is the promise given by my hon. colleague the Labour Minister and we are all one with him that the public sector undertakings must give the leadership in this social experiment. If we lag behind, what right have we to say to the private sector, 'You should have the Works Committees and the Management Councils'.

But we do not seek to be model employers. That is to high and tall a claim to make. We are satisfactory employers. We cannot be model employers. We are reasonable employers. We are open-minded employers with whom negotiations are every day possible, whether it be Shri Banerjee or some other hon. friend from this side. We are prepared to discuss. We are prepared to satisfy every one of the human requirements to the extent of national resources available. We do not just now claim to become model employers yet.

I have taken far too much time of the House. It is such an important subject that I thought that I would dilate on it at length. Now, I come to the last part, the question of training The greatest contribution the public sector has made to this country to my mind, in not even its production, not even its industrial leadership, not even its socialistic approach to avoid the concentration of wealth, but the great amount of training that is given.

Now, you go and see every public sector enterprise. Take, for instance, the Bhopal one. There are 3,800 boys under training. Almost all of them are first class. When Lord Chandos came here he was surprised to see the mettle of our boys. He stayed there for 8 or 9 days. He said if this is the quality of the trainees and the technicians in this country, he was prepared to enter into a contract for

Rs. 50 crores, of heavy electricals every year. Originally, from Rs. 6¼ crores we wanted to increase it to Rs. 25 crores and he was not agreeable. We had requested him that instead of Rs. 6¼ crore programme let us make it Rs. 25 crores. He said, 'No'. It was before a year. But when he came here and saw the boys—he is a technical man and he and his experts examined them—he said that he was prepared to enter into a contract for Rs. 50 crores. I can say that our technicians are not inferior to their counterparts anywhere in the world.

In the Hindustan Machine Tools we had a productivity and efficiency drive and we got a measure of them. 220 boys trained there, after four years only, matched 10 per cent better than their Swiss counterparts who had worked for 7, 8 or 9 years in the plants or Switzerland.

An Hon. Member: In Bhilai only or Rourkela?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I am not talking of that. I am saying of the Hindustan Machine Tools. I do not want to generalise anything. I want to be specific. Unless and until every enterprise is judged mercilessly with the correct yardstic, it will not be correct to generalise. Let one pimple come somewhere, let one type of evil grow somewhere; wherever there is evil we will root it out. On the whole, our boys have given a very good account of themselves. We are providing training everywhere. We have issued instructions and the Co-ordinating Committee itself has decided that there shall be extra training given. That is, whatever trainees they need for a particular enterprise plus 25 to 50 per cent extra under-studies will be trained so that the national enterprises in the private sector or in the public sector can benefit outside that very unit itself. Therefore, it is our aim that within the next 5 or 10 years these public sector undertakings should have their own separate training centres and institutions; and each one of them today is developing it.

As a matter of fact, I am glad to tell the House that we are building several national institutions. There will be one at Ranchi for machine designing. That would be the Central National Institute of Machine Designing. We do not want and we cannot go on depending on borrowed technology. It is degrading to a great country like ours to continue to depend on foreign technology. We all thank and welcome foreign technical collaboration. But there is a limit. We want to have our own designers for chemical, electrical or mechanical plants. Therefore, we have made a fundamental approach to this problem that every enterprise will have its own designing section; that it will have a training centre of its own and that it will train surplus men so that the rest of the economy in the public and private sectors benefit from the original designs produced by Indian engineers.

The last point I wanted to mention is this. Some hon. friend raised the question of proportion of equity to loan. Broadly, there also a policy is being worked out that over the total capital investment by an enterprise, at lseat one-third will be, generally in the industrial enterprise,—because banking is not amenable to that approach, because all banks have large deposits and large advances—in the factory type of industries, one-third to one-half will be equity and two-thirds to one-half will be borrowing. That is, from one-third to two-thirds will be the ratio between equity capital and borrowings; in some cases helf and half; that is equal amount of investment in equity and equal in borrowing. Shri Morarka raised this point and we are trying to evolve a formula. We do not want to have too small equity and too much borrowing. That will make it lopsided. Nor should we have too much investment and unnecessarily lock up the capital of the country, in cases where things should be done by working capital or by borrowing or by certain other methods.

I am very grateful to the House for the considerable interest taken by the

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hon. Members. We will always welcome such opportunities, if we can afford to find time in future, from session to session so that we can give more thought to the public sector undertakings. Nobody will be happier than I to receive the comments offered by the hon. Members, welcome the eternal vigilance of the non Members over all these public sector undertakings where crores and crores of rupees of the public are invested to produce commensurate results both in actual production and in national income.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Mr. Chairman, at this late hour when the House is tired enough, I would not seek the indulgence of this House for more than five or seven minutes.

We can congratulate the hon. Minister who spoke at length and gave us facts. One feels really proud of the public sector which this country is building up. There is no difference on the social objectives. If we have offered any criticism it is only because of our anxiety to see that it develops on sound lines.

While I agree with many things which the hon. Minister has said, I wish to draw the pointed attention of the hon. Minister and this House to the scant regard and courtesy paid to the recommendations of the Estimates Committee. Right from their 20th report, till the 73rd report, certain recommendations of a very vital nature have been made. They are brushed aside and it is said that the company form of management is better. I wish he goes into the various reasons given by the Estimates Committee for not favouring this type of management. Shareholders play an important role in the company type of management. Where are the shareholders in the State-owned companies? Who calls the company to order? Do we expect Company Law Administration to do it? There are various other factors too. All these companies are created by the executive order of the Ministries and Parliament does not know what companies are being created and for what purpose. It has every right to know whether a company should be initiated and if so for what purpose. I have to differ on this matter with my hon. friend, the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Again he referred to the retired public servants and the ICS. I have no allergy against these people. I am prepared here to publicly acknowledge the services they have rendered and I wish them to continue in their rightful places and render such service. But I wish to point this out again. It is not only I who say this. If I could give the opinion of somebody else which may possibly carry more conviction with, I will give the opinion of Professor J. K. Galbraith, about whom we talked yesterday. Today we read in the papers that he is going to be the next ambassador from the United States. About the appointment of civil servants to these posts, he says that "It will be a very salutary practice if no civil servant is appointed to the board of directors or as the chief executive". I am quoting him possibly because it may be more acceptable to my friend. There are very good reasons also and that is why so many Members who have spoken in this House feel that way.

I would also emphasise that the Members of Parliament should not participate as directors on these boards. I know of small-scale industries. There is a Corporation for it. What is the directorate doing? It considers the hire purchase applications and decides whether machinery should be purchased or not. It is the function of a simple executive of a Government servant. Why should a Member of Parliament go into all these matters which are only for small Government servants?

I shall refer to what my hon. friend from Jharkand said. We always listen to him with a little interest and sometimes amusement which he

affords to this House. Yesterday, I do not know why he went absolutely off the rails. I know that he is a staunch advocate of the private sector and he has the fullest freedom to be so. But then he talked about Avro 748. It has not yet come into production and there is no reason why he should talk about the cost of its production and all that before anything is produced. Then does he want that for our defence purposes and also other purposes we should perpetually depend on foreign countries and go on purchasing from the United States, Russia or U.K. and pay through our nose? I wish that the House takes note of certain facts which are available in some of our reports. The total production in the defence ordnance factories in 1956-57 was Rs. 14 crores; now it has gone up to Rs. 26 crores. It is a remarkable progress in three years' time. It has been done without any increase in the labour strength and the cost of production has gone down. Even our foreign exchange has been saved to the tune of some crores of rupees. He again referred to the exploration of the oil. If you are not going to give priority to this, I do not know to what you are going to give priority. We are spending about Rs. 50 crores of foreign exchange now on oil. If we are not going to accelerate our exploration programmes, what will be the position? The demand for oil is going to increase from the present 6 million to about 14 million units by the end of the Third Plan. That means that we will drain our foreign exchange resources at the rate of about Rs. 125 crores per year, if we do not give the highest priority to oil exploration now.

While I say this much about the public sector, I would not say, as suggested by Shri Joachim Alva, that we should nationalise the automobile industry. There is no sense and no purpose. Now we have taken a decision that we are going to produce people's car in the public sector and very rightly so. If we produce the people's car in the public sector and give a certain standard and model to the country, let the private sector either come up to our expectation and compete with it or let them stew in their own juice. I am strongly opposed to this type of idea of nationalisation.

I understand from the hon. Minister that the Government is seriously considering the reports of the Estimates Committee though it has taken such a long time and also other reports produced by the party in 1958 and I would urge upon them to take two or three steps. I urge upon them to appoint somebody to consider the suitability of the organisation of the public sector enterprises. They must also consider whether some of the companies should be split or some others should be amalgamated. They should also consider reconstituting the boards of management eliminating legislators and the ministerial staff, and constituting a statutory committee of Parliament, as has been done by the House of Commons. We have annual general meeting of the shareholders in private companies. This Parliament is a shareholder of these public sector undertakings and so it should discuss annually these things as in the annual general meetings of the private sector enterprises. We must give a directive to them to prepare an overall master plan so that there is a complete picture before us. It can be developed. We are preparing a Master Plan for Delhi. Each public sector must prepare a Master Plan so that a vivid picture is before the entire country. Then there must be an Economic and Industrial Service constituted. Efficiency and business courses and refresher courses should also be formulated.

Lastly, I wish to raise my voice again in support of my hon. friend Shri T. B. Vittal Rao who says that we should not permit any private money to get into these public sector enterprises. That may certainly be the thin end of the wedge, and we do not want that the Government should take a decision to that effect.

Mr. Chairman: I shall now put the first motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House takes note of the Publication on the Public Sector Industries, laid on the Table of the House on the 9th March, 1960."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The second motion need not be put.

17.40 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 15th December, 1960/Agrahayana 24, 1882 (Saka).

Wednesday, December 14, 1960/Agrahayana 23, 1882 (Saka)

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907	Indian Airlines Corporation	5436—40
908	Posting of newspapers abroad	5440—42
909	Rise in price of rice in Kerala	5442—44
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1791	Srisailam Power Project Report	5470—71
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1813	Railway Committees	5482–83
1814	Payment of arrears to employees	5483
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1816	Incident at Ambala Cantt. Station	5485
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1819	Killing of pests	5487
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1821	Ammonium sulphate for tea industry	5488–89
1822	Road projects in Punjab	5489
1823	Mobile Postal service	5489
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1826	Derailment near Paricha station	5490
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1828	Major irrigation schemes in Himachal Pradesh	5491
1829	Bridge on river Jumna	5491-92
1830	Airline between Mithpur and Okha	5492
1831	Commemoration stamps	5492
1832	New Delhi Central Telegraph Office	5492–93
1833	New Delhi Central Telegraph Office	5493–94
1834	Loans for Road Transport services in States	5494–95
1835	White Tiger for Delhi Zoo	5495
1836	Timber in Anadaman Islands	5495-96

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT . 5497—5502

The Speaker withheld his consent to the moving of two adjournment motions given notice of by Sarvashri S. M. Banerjee, Khushwaqt Rai, Ram Sevak Yadav and Braj Raj Singh regarding the effect of the judgment of the Supreme Court declaring the U.P. Sugarcane Cess Act, 1956 as invalid.

COLUMNS

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE . . 5503

(1) A copy of each of the following Reports under sub-section (2) of Section 37 of the Air Corporations Act, 1953 :

(*i*) Annual Report of the Indian Airlines Corporation for the year 1959-60 .

(*ii*) Annual Report of the Air-India International Corporation for the year 1959-60.

(2) A copy of the Sugarcane Control (State of Pondicherry) Order, 1960 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1359 dated the 19th November, 1960, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED . 5503

Seventy-fourth Report was presented.

REPORT OF ESTIMATES COMMITTEE PRESENTED 5503

Hundred-first Report was presented.

BILLS PASSED . . 5504—07

(1) Further discussion on the motion to consider the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Amendment Bill concluded. The motion was adopted. After clause -by-clause consideration the Bill was passed as amended.

(2) The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi) moved the consideration of the Preference Shares (Regulation of Dividends) Bill, as reported by Select Committee. The motion was adopted. After clause-by-clause consideration, the Bill was passed.

MOTION TO REFER THE BILL TO JOINT COMMITTEE ADOPTED . 5507—56

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) moved that the Maternity Benefit Bill be referred to a Joint Committee. The motion was adopted.

COLUMNS

BILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. . . .5573—75

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) moved that the Motor Transport Workers Bill, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration. The discussion was not concluded.

MOTIONS *RE* : PUBLICATION ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS . . 5575—5656

Further discussion on the motions *re*: Publication on the Public Sector Industries and Public Sector Undertakings continued. Motion *re*: Public Sector Industries was adopted.

MOTIONS *RE* : PUBLICATION ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS—*contd.*

AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1960/ AGRAHAYANA 24, 1882 (*SAKA*)

Further discussion on the motion to consider and passing of the Motor Transport Workers Bill, as reported by the Joint Committee and discussion on the Annual Report of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited.

GMGIPND—LS II—1603—(Ai) LS—23-12-60—901.